

Re-birth

(March 7, 2006)

I. Preface to my story

In the summer of 1997 I found myself sitting in a car in a very sorry state.

1. Born in the covenant.
2. **Raised in an LDS home.**
3. Admittedly was a bit of a hellion as a teen.
4. **Served a full-time mission to Harrisburg Pennsylvania.**
 - used mission to really straighten myself out.
 - lived "with exactness," as we were prone to say.
 - enjoyed the mission very much.
 - returned home found I had just kept myself preoccupied.
 - really the same man inside as the guy I was when I left.
5. Took the next prescribed LDS step and married wonderful girl in the LA temple in 1984.
6. **Attended BYU / Started a family / very active in the Church.**
7. Inside was deeply troubled: why was I so prone to sin?
 - not talking about outward actions. Talking about inner condition.
 - Outwardly I really walked a pretty walk.
 - Inwardly I was full of lust, anger, pride, meanness, pettiness, piety, and a spirit to control others.

In time made an E.Q. President, Seminary Teacher, put in a Bishopric, served on a Stake High Council for over three years.

1. In the face of being so outwardly appealing but inwardly corrupt, I began, shortly after getting married and starting my second year at BYU, to search for some kind of absolute truth.
2. **If God was real, I wanted some real answers. And I meant it.**
 - **Started with a study of LDS doctrine.**
 - **Shifted to LDS history and what Mormons call anti-Mormon literature.**
 - **Moved on to philosophy, eastern metaphysics, and after a seventeen long year search found myself believing in almost nothing. This was in the summer of 1997.**
3. I was active in the ward and stake, the father of three beautiful children, and I was so dead and hollow spiritually I could hardly move anymore.

II. REBIRTH

That summer afternoon my wife asked me if I would drive to a nearby town and pick our daughters up from gymnastics practice.

(Tell story – end with born-again)

III. MESSAGE

If you are a member of the LDS Church I want to know one thing and one thing only: Have you been born-again through faith in Jesus Christ?

Now listen to me very closely here:

I don't care where you go to church.
I don't care what position you hold in your ward or stake.
I don't care if you are wealthy, or productive, or happy, or sad.
I don't care if you believe the "Church is true."

I want to take a moment and ask yourself: Have I been born-again?

In the Gospel of John, chapter 1 verses 12 and 13 it reads:

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Have you been born of God?

Jesus Christ himself gave us an imperative, **a must**, when He said to Nicodemus,

"You **MUST** be born-again."

I maintain that the LDS Church does not emphasize nor really teach the importance of being spiritually born-again through faith in Jesus Christ.

Instead it focuses on the actions that are supposed to follow those who are reborn.

I maintain that the Church –starting with the people of this state – needs revival, needs rebirth, needs Jesus on the throne of their individual and collective lives.

I call upon our mighty Father in Heaven to bring individual Latter-day Saints, if not the LDS Church as a whole, to a regenerative state of existence. To a personal, life-altering, spirit-breaking relationship with Jesus Christ.

This is not a casual event. It is not progressive, stretched out over a life-time so a person can never really know if they are new creatures.

Births don't take a life-time. They are single events.

Maturing takes a life-time, but this is another matter.

Now, a lot of my Christian brothers and sisters insist that I talk with Mormons about "Mormonism" instead of Jesus Christ.

But I suggest that there is often a great difference between "Mormonism and being a Mormon."

Most Latter-day Saints don't accept everything LDS. Many don't accept many things truly LDS.

I often ask my Christian friends and colleagues if they think all Mormons are going to hell?

If the answer is yes, I just pray.

But most of the time, the answer is a reasonable no. So I will then ask them,

"Well, what is it about those who will be saved?"

And of course it is THEIR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST, that will make the difference, right?"

Right.

Why spend any time discussing anything with Latter-day Saints or anyone else for that matter, than He who offers the only salvation!?

We shouldn't.

To the Catholics we should preach and teach Jesus. To the Jehovah's Witness, we should share rebirth through Jesus. In the Christian Churches, it is Jesus, and to the members of the LDS church, it should be Jesus.

It should be Jesus through how we live around them.

It should be Jesus through how we love them always.

It should be Jesus in how we treat and speak with them.

Now I was actually warned by a number of individuals that I must make it very clear on this show that Mormonism is a c-u-l-t.

In my opinion c-u-l-t is a four letter word no loving Christian should ever use when describing Mormonism.

Religion is religion. Period. There frankly all cultic in my opinion.

I'm not saying the word isn't academically correct in many ways.

But using it in conversation with a people who do not know the Lord is ineffective and does more to build walls than tear them down.

In light of my own life experiences as an active Latter-day Saint, my observations as a Christian over the past 8 years, and my absolute commitment to sharing Jesus Christ as the way, truth, and life to all people of this fallen world, I'd like to spend time on this show to present some concepts that may have not ever had consideration in the past.

First, methods matter.

I've never understood the mentality that says, "I'm going to insult you and your beliefs like no other and then you will want to follow the God I know!"

I don't read anywhere in the Bible that Christians are supposed to be rude, or angry, or sarcastic to people of divergent faiths. In fact, I read an opposite attitude.

Three daughters story: Dressing

Second, it is an act of spiritual irresponsibility to pull the rug out from any religiously inclined people without having first – FIRST – given them a firm grip on the only thing they can cling to once they hit the floor - JESUS CHRIST.

Do you get it?

Jesus must be what we preach - who He is, what He has done, how He has given us new life, and leads us today. Jesus Christ! We must teach Him to others by showing the LOVE and LIFE and JOY he has brought to us through new life!

The fruit of the spirit isn't apologetics, attacking others, being critical, and mocking faith. The fruit of the spirit is

"love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance"
(Gal 5:22)

This state is chock full of people who have fallen from the LDS faith and into the hands of this world. They are destitute of a ship and an anchor.

Teaching Jesus before attacking doctrine, history, and practice is a method that will help avoid such tragedy should someone decide to leave the faith.

This is loving. This is considerate. This, my friends, is Christian.

In this light, I welcome all peoples to our show tonight – Catholics, Mormons, unsaved Christian practitioners, gays and lesbians, murderers, Jehovah's Witnesses, prisoners in jail, drug addicts, adulterers, liars, cheats, child abusers and the like.

Because in the end, our show will always be about Jesus Christ, because He is the one who saves. Not religion! But the author and the finisher of our faith.

He is the one who sets us free.

He is the one who breaks the chains of our religious selves.

He is the one who brings hope.

Not a church. Not a Bishop or Prophet. And not a Pastor. Just Jesus.

We cannot possibly expect people who have come to know the Lord to immediately abandon all they have embraced in their religious lives and drop it all within any prescribed period of time. This may happen, but it doesn't always happen.

People have histories, family traditions, children, and marriages that are entwined and entangled in and around the LDS Church.

Again it is irresponsible and unreasonable to expect anyone who comes to know Jesus Christ on an intimate and personal level to have the strength and fortitude to sever all ties to what is often the only religion they have ever known.

Things take time. And it is God who will lead and tell us where he wants us to go.

When I think of abandoning a religion, I think of a leaf-covered tree.

Martin Luther and his vestments as an Augustinian monk.

So in patience. love, and understanding.

Born-Again, Again

(March 14, 2006)

I. Last Week. . .

1. I asked if you have been born-again through faith in Jesus Christ?
2. **Made the statement that I don't care where you attend Church; that the focus of this show is helping LDS experience Jesus through spiritual rebirth *first* and letting God lead them in their religious life thereafter.**
3. There is an amazing correlation between the number of people who experience rebirth in a religion and the clarity and quantity of the religions teachings about Jesus Christ.
4. **Non-Christian religions – Hindus, Buddhist, Islam – may produce born-again believers in spite of themselves while some so-called Christian denominations often fail to lead their congregates to spiritual regeneration because they do not teach and preach Jesus as the only means of salvation.**
5. I propose: "The clearer the picture of Jesus, and the more frequently and deeply it is presented, the greater the genuine harvest of souls, and the stronger the faith of the believers."

II. Straight Shooting

1. **Since our first show, I've received a number of emails from Latter-day Saints who claim that Mormonism emphasizes spiritual rebirth through Jesus Christ.**
2. We had a caller last week state that the Book of Mormon quantitatively speaks of spiritual rebirth more than the New Testament and that this is evidence that both the Book of Mormon and the LDS Church are focused on teaching rebirth.
3. **This is just not so.**
4. I'd like to say something here that is personally very important for me to let you know:
I do not pull punches nor do I appreciate religious spin.
 - a. If something is apparent, I'll admit it.
 - b. **If it is genuine, I'll support it.**
 - c. If it is wrong, I'll renounce it.
 - d. **And if it is my opinion, I'll make this clear.**
 - e. Artifice in religious communications is a waste of time.

- f. **Proof texts are worthless if real application is missing.**
- g. I am not in the pocket of any church or religious organization. I say what I want to say based on what I believe is right and true from the Bible. I call things as I see them both in Mormonism and Christianity.
- h. **I will not compromise on matters of fact.**
- i. And though I may not always be right, I will always try and shoot straight based on what I know and what I have experienced.
- j. **So please don't call to "spin" on this show.**
- k. Please be honest and real.
- l. **Please don't use exceptions to make general rules.**
- m. Please speak in terms of the reality rather than theory.

III. Latter-day Saints and Spiritual Rebirth

1. **Having said this, let me say this loud and clear: Mormonism does not – does not – emphasize the regenerative relationship with the Lord as taught in the Bible.**
2. I love the Mormon people. I love their zest for life and order and conduct. I love their moral stance and youth programs.
3. **Did I say that a Mormons cannot be born-again? No. My own story is evidence that they can.**
4. But Mormonism does not emphasize spiritual regeneration through the Lord Jesus Christ. Let me give you three reasons why.

IV. First, spiritual rebirth is logical only if original birth is tainted.

1. **The Bible makes very clear that because of Adam we are fallen and born in sin. This does not mean we are capable of sinning as infants, but our nature is undoubtedly sinful. (Romans 5:12)**
2. LDS doctrine teaches that we are born sinless and remain so until an age of accountability.
3. **The Bible teaches that we become a child of God through faith in Jesus. Until that time we are merely a creation of God.**
4. Mormon doctrine teaches that we are all born children of a Heavenly Father and that by right we are all automatically His children.
5. **So while Joseph Smith may have included doctrine regarding being spiritually reborn into the text of the Book of Mormon, the overall theology message of Mormonism is antithetical to the fact that it needs to occur in the first place.**

6. Additionally, what leads most people to spiritual rebirth is the understanding that they CANNOT make it in life on their own.

From my observations most Christians really come to know the LORD as a direct result of failing as a human being. More often than not this failing involves recognizing themselves as sinful, as failures, as broken. In this state of brokenness, they are literally transformed by the grace and power of God when they call out to Him in desperation.

Conversely, LDS teachings avoid focusing on the sinful nature of its members but in contrast generally seeks to elevate men and women as a way to simply improve upon their own at-birth condition.

In other words, the sinful failures that often lead Christians to fall broken before the Lord are often pushed back upon the Latter-day Saint as a simple matter of personal weakness and choice. Instead of turning to the Lord for a new operating system, they turn to the Church and/or themselves for power and resolve.

It is a sad day in heaven when people actually believe they have the strength and ability to overcome their sinful nature without a miraculous new heart from God. It's sad, it's unbiblical, and, according to Jesus, it will bar people from seeing the kingdom of heaven.

V. Second: Mormonism teaches that spiritual rebirth is processional

1. **This occurs through the week by week taking of the sacrament, which is a one way rite of promise keeping.**
2. It is a process of progression, of getting better, of overcoming, and of growing personally and in all areas. And it is evidenced by personal accomplishments, achievements, and success.
3. **The problem with processional salvation is 1), there is never any lasting peace and, 2) what if a person misses a few meetings and then unexpectedly dies? Are they lost forever?**
4. The Lord used the term "born-again" with Nicodemus instead of "really grow up progressively and successfully" for good reason. Birth and rebirth are single events. They do not take place over the life of an individual. They are immediate and result in new life.
5. **Biblical rebirth brings an immediate and tangible justification for the every believer before God through the spilled blood of Jesus Christ.**

6. Rebirth begins through immediate justification, progressive sanctification, and ultimate perfection.
7. **It is the IMMEDIATE JUSTIFICATION Mormonism ignores. They decorate a beautiful cart, but lack the true and living horse (Jesus) to pull it.**
8. Mormonism needs to teach the Jesus experience of regeneration before they teach obedience, service, or standards.

VI. Finally, Mormonism teaches that true processional rebirth *includes* allegiance to the Church organization, to a living Prophet, to a Sabbath-day observance, and to obedience to certain laws, rites, and ordinances that only the LDS Church provides

1. But Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the Life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me."
2. **His church is made up of regenerated believers – a BODY.**
3. **He is our living prophet.**
4. **We come unto Him and He gives us rest, not a day of the week.**
5. We are freed, yes, even dead to the Law, and out of gratitude and love *follow Him, praise Him, and seek His will* in our lives.

BEFORE WE GO TO THE PHONES, LET'S REMIND OURSELVE that . . .

Jesus WILL MAKE US FREE

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

HE IS THE DOOR

John 10:9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

HE IS OUR ACCESS TO THE SPIRIT

Ephesians 2:18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

HE IS THE LIVING WATER

John 4:14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

HE IS THE LIVING BREAD

John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

HE IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

HE IS GOD IN THE FLESH

John 14:9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

HE IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

John 10:14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

HE IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

HE IS THE VINE

John 15:1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

HE IS THE ROCK

1st Corinthians 10:4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

HE IS THE ALPHA AND OMEGA

Revelation 1:17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

PAUL SOUGHT TO ONLY TEACH HIM TO THE CORNITHIANS

1st Corinthians 2:2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

AND CONSIDERED ALL THINGS A LOSS BUT HIS KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST

Philippians 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, and be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.

The Bible tells us to:

“Learn of Him” (Matthew 11:29) “Let Christ be formed in us” (Galatians 4:19)

“Come unto Him”

“Draw nigh to Him”

“Come after Him”

“Look unto Him”

“Follow Him”

“Confess Him”

“Seek Him”

“Find Him”

“Receive Him”

“See Him”

“Know Him”

“Dwell in Him”

“Witness of Him”

“Live by Him”

“Testify of Him”

“Honour Him”

“Love Him”

and yes, my friends, to “Worship Him”

I pray for revival in this state, among the leaders of the LDS Church, the LDS families, the LDS teens, and the LDS children. I pray that Jesus will in fact be the center of their lives, that He will be praised, worshipped, and adored.

I worship Jesus in spirit and in truth. And I pray His blessings upon each and every one of you, this day and forever.

Praising God

(March 21, 2006)

I. Welcome

1. Heart of the Matter
2. Live call-in show 973-TV20
3. Phone shy? Email us at heart@tv20.tv
4. We'll open the phone lines up in about 15 minutes.
5. Let's open with a word of prayer.

II. Have several topics to kick off tonight's show

1. First, let's talk about the "Right Jesus".
 - Received several emails since our last show from well meaning believers suggesting I question LDS callers (who claim to have a relationship with Jesus) about which Jesus they are speaking of . . . the Mormon Jesus or the Christian Jesus.
 - I think this needs to be addressed. I'm not so sure the defenders of the Christian faith in this area are going to appreciate it, but here goes.
 - Some religions teach a very watered-down, almost unrecognizable version of who Jesus is.
 - Others, like Chuck Smith's Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa, paint a wonderfully rich and biblical version of the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
 - The latter is certainly preferable as it yields the greatest harvest of souls, helping to lead them to a stronger walk in the faith.
 - But either way, *Jesus* is being taught.
 - In Philippians 1:18 Paul was speaking of men who teach a false Jesus and the real one and he writes: "What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice."
 - Now Latter-day Saints, in my opinion and experience, do not teach a truly biblical version of who Jesus is. And the Jesus they preach is sorely lacking. I'm sorry, but any time the Lord is referred to as "our elder brother" we are talking about an incomprehensibly faulty representation.
 - But they DO teach Him! Including:
 - a. He is the Only Begotten of the Father.
 - b. He was without sin.
 - c. He performed the recorded miracles.
 - d. He suffered and died for the sins of the world.
 - e. He was resurrected on the third day.

f. He sits on the right hand of the father.

- Please don't call now and tell me all of the additional stuff Latter-day Saints add to this picture. I'm well aware. The point is, they do teach some truth about the Lord.
- If a Church presents a false version of Christ, Christ is still preached, and the rays of His light can shine forth in the hearts of their believers.
- Determining the "real Jesus," questioning it, probing for it, debating it, is, in my opinion, a grand waste of time because nobody has an entire answer to the question, and much of what is believed can be argued.
- The real question, the better question, continues to be, "Have you been spiritually reborn of God through Him?"
 - a) goes from the emotive/intellectual to a reality.
 - b) you have either been regenerated or you haven't
 - c) though subjective, it is an undeniable state.
 - d) A certain standard of metaphysical certitude exists between those who have and those who have not.
 - e) Can a person be regenerated without knowing the "real Jesus?" YES! I was!
 - f) This is the point! Let's drop all the extra-Jesus argumentation and focus on the Lord and our relationship with Him!
 - g) This is why our ministry places its focus on knowing Jesus through rebirth! It's personal, it's undeniable, and it is the thing that changes lives.

2. Secondly, I'd like to introduce you to a book I wrote a few years ago about his very topic. It's called

- Born-Again Mormon: *Moving Toward Christian Authenticity*
- Read Endorsements
- Cost (and commentary about money/how to order)
- book@bornagainmormon.com

3. Finally, let me throw some wood on this fire and warm the place up a bit. I want to talk to you all about a very natural and normal result of being born-again through Jesus Christ – praise.

- Do you praise the Lord for His loving mercies daily?
- Have you ever sang praises unto Him?
- Is this a natural part of your relationship with Him?

PERSONAL STORY OF CONVERSION AND VIEWS OF PRAISE

Hebrew 13:15 says:

By him therefore let us offer **the sacrifice of praise to God continually**, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

Psalms 50:23 reads:

Whoso **offereth praise glorifieth me . . .**

Ephesians 5:18-20 states:

. . . speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 3:15-17

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Psalms 67:3-5

Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Selah. Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.

Psalms 116:17

I will offer to thee the **sacrifice** of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD.

Psalms 27:6

And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle **sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.**

- Natural part of being born of God is the yearning to praise Him.
- Before we open up the phone lines, I'd like to take the opportunity to share with you a song of praise you can use in your car, private prayer and worship time, or in your family home evening. Here we go.

Sing Halleluiah to the LORD.

Sin

(March 28, 2006)

I. Welcome to Heart of the Matter

1. This is a live call-in show (973-TV20)
2. Heart@tv20.tv
3. "Heart of the Matter" is re-broadcast Tuesday mornings at 11 am so if you're watching then, tune in tonight for a whole new live show.

II. I've given a lot of thought over the course of my life – most of it as a result of personal introspection – to the subject of sin

1. What it is / Why it occurs / How it manifests itself in people / And what it does to them in the short and long run of existence.
2. I've discovered a few things about sin which I think are justified by the whole of scripture.
 - A) First, every person on earth is a sinner. And not just some of the time. **"Most of us are in some sort of sin most of the time."**
 - B) Second, I think it is scripturally plain that an all Good-God will never accept sin. All sin, every sin, each sin **MUST** be paid in full for God to be good. (more on this in a minute)
 - C) Third, these facts cause tremendous fear in the heart of people everywhere.
 - D) And as a direct result of this fear, people AND religions often go to great lengths to revise the facts about sin or God so they can live at peace with themselves.

Sin and/or God revision is usually done in the following ways:

Sin or God is legitimized or justified.

- "It's okay. Everyone does it. It's harmless. I'm a free spirit."
- "God will understand. God is love. I'm not that bad."
- PROBLEM *is denies a Holy and Good God.*
- EXAMPLE OF THE GOOD JUDGE.

Sin is placed into a hierarchy.

- "I'm bad but look at what "so and so" has done!"

- PROBLEM *is all sin – teaspoon or truckload – is rejected and has separated us from the presence of God.*
 - Adam and Eve and apple – no big deal, right?
 - earthly consequences differ but not end result.
 - Allows ALL people to justify their own sins.
- b) Often sin is “balanced” with good works.
- “This much good off-sets this much bad.” (Universal)
 - PROBLEM *omits the need for Jesus and sin becomes acceptable to Good God so long as there is good on the other side.*
- c) Sometimes people try and “self-atone” or “work sin off.”
- Similar to universal balance approach except the sin is being paid for by the individual.
 - PROBLEM: *Removes the need for Jesus.*
 - We are not worthy to pay for sin. Unable.
- d) Sin is eliminated or reduced.
- Over-come sin one step at a time until we have entire lives seemingly under control.
 - PROBLEM: We have all still sinned and are in the negative with God because of this fact.

Let me say something loud and clear at this point: NONE of these attempts are valid when it comes to God or sin.

All mankind have sinned and if they have not accepted Jesus by faith and been reborn, they remain sinful.

If you attend a Christian Church but have not accepted Jesus as the author and finisher of your faith, your personal savior, and the only means to God and you die tonight, you will face Holy God as an unjustified, unqualified, and unredeemed sinner. I’d like to be politically correct here but this is truth.

Let me tell you right now, according to scripture, NOBODY WANTS TO FALL INTO THE HANDS OF AN ANGRY GOD.

What would make Him angry? The fact that He sent His Son down and allowed Him to suffer incomprehensively for all of us and then to have some of us reject this simple easy offering. That will make our all-good God angry.

The good news is most Christian churches have Jesus as the focal point of their worship and study (from infancy to death) so most active Christian believers have a good idea of how vital Jesus is to their eternal life and have to some degree or another turned themselves – meaning their sin, their will, and their lives –over to Him.

Then we come to Mormonism.

What is it about Mormonism that makes so many people claim they are a “C-U-L-T?”
As a Mormon, have you ever asked yourself this? Do you think it is really because they are jealous of the Church?

What is it about the Mormon Church that draws such criticism toward their doctrines?
Do you think all attackers of the LDS Church are misinformed?

In my opinion, the real trouble with Mormonism is it allows so many people to pass through its doors over the course of their lifetime thinking they are good with God because they have been religiously active.

That religious and active Mormons are allowed to believe they are justified, sanctified, and spiritually regenerated based on their commitment to the Church and its programs.

This is simply not true.

“Being found worthy” is not synonymous with being worthy before God.

Sin is handled, paid for, forgiven, and erased by only one thing in heaven or in earth – faith in Jesus Christ.

And if Jesus Christ is the ONLY answer for forgiveness of sin, then Jesus Christ is the ONLY answer when it comes to salvation/eternal life, or exaltation.

Does this make sense?

What was the reason we were separated from God? SIN!
So what is the solution to this separation? The TOTAL ABSENCE of SIN!
And where can we go to have ALL sin eliminated and erased? Jesus!

Not works! Not religion! Not contributions! Not religious allegiance! JESUS!

We are separated from God by sin. Jesus paid for sin. We believe in Jesus. We are no longer separated from God.

We’re going to open the phone lines up now. But relative to Mormonism and sin, I have three charges to level at them. This may sting a bit, but it must be said strongly so there is no question as to where people need to stand relative to sin:

First, what role could works ever play in bringing a person to God if it was sin that separated us from Him in the first place? Why would works be needed when it was sin that caused the separation?

Second, Jesus suffered for the sins of this world past, present, and future over 2000 years ago. When we accept Him our sins are forgiven – past, present, and future. How is the “repentance process” which is used in Mormonism to supposedly bring about forgiveness reconciled with an understanding of the atonement occurring over two thousand years ago?

Last of all, and perhaps the most important question of the evening, “What is the LDS Church doing with its sinners? I understand what you do with those who believe themselves to be worthy. The Celestial people. You build them up, accept them, and give them positions. You praise them, keep them busy, and use them to do further the work of the church. But what happens to your sinners? Those people who just can’t make the Mormon grade?

What do you do with your alcoholics, your drug addicts, your homosexuals, your sexually promiscuous? What happens to the LDS failures? What do you do with those people who struggle with the flesh?

I know what you do. I’ve seen it.

You cause them to either conform or appear to conform to the edicts of Mormonism, or you drive them away with the subtlety and power of a surging tide. You ignore them at the ward, stake, and corporate level.

But the worst thing of all is you are sending them to hell with a first class ticket!

Why? Because you refuse to embrace them as Jesus would have embraced them while at the same time you refuse to teach them the way to overcoming their sinful ways – which is Jesus. Rebirth.

Mormonism is at times like a giant luxury liner pushing forward through the crystal sea. Its first class is all above board, well dressed, sipping Martinelli’s and prancing about in the open air, congratulating each other, welcoming each other, making show for each other. They take family photos at the Captain’s table and put on a pretty good show of things. And the band plays on.

But below deck, in the steerage, in the cargo, in the belly of the ship, you have stuffed all those who have not, who will not, who cannot make the grade.

You turn from them and force them out through silent contempt. They are the disenfranchised LDS. Disowned, and condemned as the weak, the willful, and the shamed.

Stalwart parents send their own children there. Wards send whole families. They will never be your bishops, stake presidents, your relief society presidents, or part of the elite or embraced. They are ignored, never asked to speak, and never invited into the inner circle.

They are your sinners, your different, your struggling with life. And though it is very sad that such have been hidden away or driven from the church, what is really sad is they have not been given any hope.

READ LETTER FROM SALT LAKE CITY TO FRIEND ON NAME REMOVEAL.

I'd like to recommend a new LDS Church to the leaders here in Salt Lake. It is based on Joseph Smith's description of heaven. The Celestial Church can be the existing LDS active and faithful. Let them continue to meet in the chapel and temple and live their higher laws.

But I propose some new buildings or wards. Call them the telestial wards or terrestrial buildings. And the people who attend there are those who just want to follow Jesus. They know they are sinners. They know they have wasted it, as Johnny Cash would say.

Open up some wards for the telestial, President Kimball. Have a stake full of terrestrial types.

Funny thing is, I don't know of too many people who would want to be a part of the Celestial gang. I wouldn't. Would you?

The World

(April 4, 2006)

When it comes to positive feelings about the LDS Church most people think, rightly or wrongly, in terms of a few broad categories:

- strong family
- self-sufficiency
- clean living
- organized
- friendly

When it comes to negative feelings about the LDS Church most people think, rightly or wrongly, in terms of a few main areas:

- blacks and the priesthood
- polygamy
- blood atonement
- authoritarian
- the “c” word
- mountain meadows
- becoming God’s
- Jesus, the spirit brother of Satan

Today I am going to talk about an area for which I feel the LDS Church needs to repent and apologize.

In my opinion it is the greatest – *the greatest* – wrong Mormonism has introduced to its membership at large and the leadership of the past, and the present, will stand before God Almighty someday to account for this unconscionable state of affairs.

What is the wrong?

The LDS attitude, treatment, and opinion of the Word of God – the Bible.

When Joseph Smith introduced The Book of Mormon – which Latter-day Saints call “Another Witness of Jesus Christ,” he suggested that the Bible was not complete. He had to.

If the Bible was complete what need would anyone have for another book or witness? None. So it became necessary for the propagation of the Book of Mormon and the differentiation of Mormonism from other start-up religions, for the Bible to be considered a bit tainted, slightly off, and inferior to the new witness.

Not more than a week ago the officials of Mormonism stood in their general conference and said:

“The Book of Mormon is the most correct book . . . (check it)

The Bible was officially legitimized by the Church both in the actual text of the Book of Mormon and in the _____ article of faith of the Church, which says:

We believe the Bible to be the word of God so far as it is translated correctly. We also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.

No matter what a Latter-day Saint claims relative to the Bible – how much they love it, appreciate it, consider it the Word of God.

FAQs

(April 11, 2006)

I. Welcome

1. Live call-in show (801) 973-TV20
2. Email? Heart@tv20.tv
3. Rebroadcast announcement
4. All shows available at www.bornagainmormon.com
5. Christian viewers: NEED YOUR PRAYERS!
 1. Get together with friends
 2. Team up over the phones
 3. Pray in advance for revival, for the Lord to move in this area, for Mormonism to open up to Jesus and His Word.

II. We're going to start by getting to all the questions that have missed in our first five shows tonight.

III. We're going to open the phone lines now so you can call, but it will be a few minutes before we get to the live calls.

IV. READ QUESTIONS

Jesus

(April 18, 2006)

I. Welcome

1. Heart of the Matter
2. Live call-in show. Phone number is 801 973-tv20 (8820)
3. Email: Heart@tv20.tv
4. Rebroadcast every Tuesday morning at 11:00 am.
5. We are blessed to offer streaming video of all our shows at:
www.bornagainmormon.com
6. Start with a prayer.
7. Before I came to do this show here in Utah, I knew I was going to face some heat.
 - Personally attacked for views.
 - Family treated differently for my views.
 - I would expose myself to well-founded reprisals for the man I was before committing myself to the LORD.

II. Because the show is growing, the attacks upon me have increased.

1. Accusations are flying - most of them are true.
2. I've never painted myself as anything but a sinner to this audience. I was a sinner anyway you looked at it.
3. **(READ FROM BOOK)**
4. I want you to know that it was my *sinfulness* that led me to the Lord. He gave me new life. He led me to the point where I now stand.
5. **My work and ministry has never been to those who consider themselves the elect of the LDS Church. It has always been to the sinners incapable of measuring up.**
6. I've been where you are, and I've been saved from it by Jesus Christ.
7. I want the same for you.
8. *Now, let's get on with the show*

III. Past week attended some LDS sacrament meetings.

1. Easter Sunday.
2. **I listened intently to some very nice talks.**

With the exception of a few Doctrine and Covenant quotes and testimonies of Joseph Smith, I doubt many a Christian would have taken exception to the content of any of the talks I heard. They covered the essentials.

But a Christian would have been able to tell that something was definitely off, missing, or unfinished.

3. There are some very subtle but interesting differences that exist when Latter-day Saints and Christians speak about Jesus.
 - a. The LDS tend to speak of Him in terms of the “possibilities” he offers –
 - b. *“I’m so thankful for the Savior and His atoning sacrifice that gives each of us the opportunity to return and live with our Heavenly Father again.”*

OR

“I am so grateful for my elder brother Jesus Christ who set the perfect example, making it possible for me to be live with my family for eternity.”

“Possibilities and opportunities.”

Rarely are things said about Jesus applied to the LDS life in the perfect tense, or as a completed action.

It’s always

“His atoning sacrifice allows me . . .”

“His perfect example makes it possible . . .”

“His obedience give me the opportunity . . .”

- c. **Instead of a Savior who simply provides opportunities, Christians typically speak of the Lord Jesus as having accomplished all the work for them already.**

- d. As Him literally being the day in and day out sovereign Lord of their lives.

“He took me from sin and gave me new life.”

“He saved me from an eternity in hell. I praise His name!”

“He opened my eyes and made me see.”

“He healed me, loves me, and guides my everyday.”

“I worship Him in spirit and in truth.”

“I adore Him and need Him in all that I do.”

“He is the way, the truth, and the life.”

“He is the First and the Last.”

“He is The Great I Am.”

“He is God incarnate.”

I remain unsure, when it comes to salvation, whether odd or misguided beliefs in Jesus will affect it.

I’m unsure that if a person who believes that Jesus is a “created being” that such a belief will put the uninformed in jeopardy of God’s wrath or not.

But what I do know is Jesus said, “You MUST be born-again.” And if you’re not, you will NOT see the kingdom of heaven. Period.

Over the past 9 or so years I started to weigh all this stuff out.

I had to asked myself this question:

“When it comes to Jesus, what beliefs will lead a person to being born-again and what beliefs will lead away from it?”

One belief that fortifies spiritual regeneration is the biblical teaching that Jesus was God in the flesh.

IV. The Babalonian Talmud stretches out to approximately 1500 pages

1. Most scholars of Hebrew agree that the central passage of all those verses is Deuteronomy 6:4-5 – The Great Shema.
 - a. It is the watchword of the Jewish faith.
 - b. It is one of the most foundational texts of both Jesus and Judaism.
 - c. The text from the Law of Moses contains only six words:
Shema ysidra’el adonai eloheynu adonai echad.

(My Hebrew teacher would be so proud)

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is One.”

- d. The Shema literally means, “Hear!”
- e. **(SING)** “Hear oh, Israel. The Lord our God is One Lord.”
- f. **The Shema is so important that the first line of the Mishnah asks:** “From what time in the evening may the Shema be recited?”
- g. The Shema was recited by priests in the temple.
- h. It is said that from birth this phrase is whispered in a Jewish child’s ear by its parents and on the deathbed, the Shema is repeated.

From childhood to death, the Jews have the Shema on their lips. Why?

V. Because it declares the oneness of God

- a. When Jesus was asked about the most important commandment, he quoted the Shema, (and extended it by including Leviticus 19:18).
- b. The Shema is not a prayer but a statement of faith and it was offered in response to the polytheistic nations surrounding Israel.

Polytheism is any type of faith-based belief in more than one God.

- c. DO YOU BELIEVE IN MORE THAN ONE GOD?
- d. “Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is One.”
- e. This is a foundational tenant of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity - That there is only One God. One.

VI. When God commanded Moses to go before Pharaoh, Moses asked what he should tell Pharaoh the name of God was

Exodus 3:14 “Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, “**I AM**” hath sent me unto you.

Who is this I AM?

John 8:57 Then said the Jews unto (Jesus), Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, **I Am**.

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, **The mighty God, The everlasting Father**, The Prince of Peace.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the **Word was God**.

Jesus was not “a God.” He was not a “trainee God” who needed to come to earth and gain a body. He was not the literal offspring of a Father God who has a body with armpits, a scrotum, and a set of lungs.

Nor was He part of an eternal regression of God’s.

“And the Word was GOD.”

And in verse 14: “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.”

“Hear O Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is One.”

- a. **Isaiah 7:14** . . . and shall call his name **Immanuel**. (God with us.)
- b. **John 10:30** I and my Father are one.
- c. **John 14:8** Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? **he that hath seen me hath seen the Father**; and how sayest thou then, Shew us

the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me.

“Hear, O Latter-day Saints, the Lord our God, the Lord is One.”

Salvation Story

(April 25, 2006)

	<p>I'd like to teach directly from the Word of God tonight.</p> <p>Mark 10:17</p> <p>Let's read through this short but highly important story.</p>
<p>Mark 10:17, "And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?"</p> <p>And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.</p> <p>Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.</p> <p>And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.</p> <p>Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.</p> <p>And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.</p>	

And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!

It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?

And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.

Verse 17 – And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one **running**, and **kneeled** to him . . .

So we have a young man, accomplished and rich, who has lived his life well.

He is urgent for truth. Eager to obey.

And he comes to the Lord wanting to know what he needs to do to be saved.

Can you sense the urgency and desire of this young man?

Running and kneeling . . .

Running

- It was a disgrace to run in public. Especially a rich ruler!

Kneeling

- A sign of obeisance.
- Praise and worship

I've a question to ask all the LDS viewers tonight -

“What will you do when you meet Jesus face to face after this life?”

- **Will you bow before Him?**
- **Will you praise Him?**
- **Will you worship Him?**

Answer this question in your heart.

Now answer this: “If you think you will worship and praise Him when you see Him then, then why don't you worship and praise Him now! In this life?

(Raising hands in worship.)

- **I used to make fun of this.**
- Do you know what this symbolizes?

- 1) Like a child reaching to a parent.**
- 2) Surrendering!**
- 3) Beggars**

As I've said before:

True spiritual rebirth ALWAYS brings the desire to praise and worship God . . . to praise and worship Jesus. ALWAYS.

Is this a reality in your life?

...kneeled to Him and asked him, **Good Master**, what shall **I do** that I may inherit eternal life?

18 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is **none good but one, that is, God.**

So the stage is set:

A rich and accomplished young ruler comes to the Lord and asks what HE NEEDS TO DO to inherit eternal life.

Watch what Jesus does with this. It is fantastic.

- *all the way down the line, the Master Teacher addresses every single religious misconceptions of the RYR is lugging around.*
- *He begins by revealing who He is, before He answers his question directly of, "What shall I do?"*

Was Jesus Good? The Jehovah's Witnesses and a few other groups say that He was saying He was not, that only God was good.

Do you believe that? Jesus was not good?

There are a few other ways to look at this comment.

- 1) Either Jesus was saying He was not good
OR
- 2) He was saying He was God.

Was Jesus good, my friends? Then He was GOD.

You get it?

Now the Rich Young Ruler was under the impression that his salvation was up to him. "What **do I** need to do, Good

<p>(So Jesus continues . . .)</p> <p>19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.</p> <p>20 And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.</p> <p>21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him,</p> <p>(and Jesus) and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.</p>	<p>Master?”</p> <p>Jesus was going to show him that if his salvation was in his hands, he was a failure – even though he was really giving it his all. Verse 19</p> <p>This is a really important phrase that Mark has included in his Gospel. I’ll explain why in a moment.</p> <p>Now he says, “One thing thou lackest” but He gives him six things to do! The first three are things in his life that he must give up.</p> <p>Go thy way. Sell what you have. Give to the poor.</p> <p>The last three are things are the Lords.</p> <p>Come (to Him). Take up the cross. Follow me.</p> <p>I propose the ONE THING he lacks is the “following Him.” Because to really follow Him, in his case, he had to give up what was of greatest importance to</p>
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him:

His MONEY and PROFESSIONS.

Ever try and take a tree or plant out of the ground?

- hard work
- cut away at the roots for an hour and the thing won't budge!
- Got to get to the **tap root** of the plant – that main root that keeps the thing tied to the earth.

We all have “tap root” issues.

Some have a few, some just one.

But here's the thing about them:

- they will prohibit spiritual rebirth. You will not experience a new heart from the Lord if your secretly desire to maintain your tap root issue.
- And if you are reborn it will inhibit your spiritual growth once you've been regenerated until it is gone.

It is usually the desire to retain our tap root issues that prevents most people from being spiritually reborn.

Now I have three very good friends – two LDS, one not really committed to anything – who tell me that they really long to know the LORD.

- They are accomplished.
- They are good-hearted.
- They serve others.
- Are good family men.

Each of them, in private conversations,

have asked me what it takes to really be born-again.

I say –

- Confess your sin and ask forgiveness of Jesus.
(I've done that, Shawn).
- Ask Jesus to take over your life as Lord and Savior.
(I've done that. All the time!)
- Ask to have a new heart, to be born-again.
(I have, I really have)
- And tell Him you will do whatever it takes, no matter what it is, to know Him.
(I've done that too . . .)

I stare at them with a smile:

“You’re willing to give up your possessions, power, and wealth?”

“You are really willing to give up taking that sneak peak at the internet porn?”

“That secret drink?”

“Hey, how about this one: Your marriage? Your family relations?”

“Are you willing to give up your church?”

Silence.

I’ll say, “You can’t do it, can you?”

And they can’t.

And I say, “When you are at the point in your life where you will genuinely turn EVERY BIT of your life over to God, he’ll step in.”

And I remind them that He will take better care of them once they have relinquished their lives than they could ever take care of themselves.

But they have to be absolutely willing to give it all over to Him.

Are you?

So how does the rich young ruler respond? Verse 22 . . .

This was a good young man, brothers and sisters! This was a man who

- ran to the Lord!
- kneeled before Him!
- Who obeyed the Law since a youth!
- Who Jesus loved!
- It says it right here in the text.
- But even though the LORD was right in front of his face, he still could NOT follow Him!
- Can you believe it!?
- He DID not, after all that he had done in his life, and after all his desires, follow the Lord.

22 And he **was sad** at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

- And he walked away sad.

23 And Jesus **looked round about,** and saith unto his disciples, **How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!**

24 And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, **how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!**

(1st John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.)

25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

- Jesus then turns to the disciples and says, He will hardly enter heaven in this state! Pure and Simple.

And He drives the point home with a metaphor of sorts . . .

What did His disciples do?

They were rocked to the core!

And this is the whole point of the story. Right here. Riches is a sub-plot. Tap root is the sub plot. The real point is ***what does it take to be saved?***

With men - their works, their running, their kneeling, their good living, it is impossible. *Do you get it?*

But with God – all things are possible.

<p>26 And they were astonished <i>out of measure</i>, saying among themselves, <u>Who then can be saved?!!!!</u></p> <p>27 And Jesus looking upon them said, With <i>men</i> it is impossible, but not with God: for <i>with God all things are possible.</i></p>	
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Interview with Greg Johnson

(May 2, 2006)

Nothing worse than a talk show where people just dance and dance and never go anywhere.

We're going to try something different.

Burger or Steak?

Hawaii or Europe?

Mountains, Desert, or Sea?

Theater or DVD?

Diet Coke or Lemonade?

Dog or Cat?

Cement or Asphalt?

Play or watch?

Red or Blue?

Snowboard or ski.

Book or television

(maybe some others – fun ones)

All right. How about word association. You get 15 - 20 seconds to give your thoughts. Ready?

Ravi Zacharias?

Standing Together Ministries?

Eric McHenry?

Jesus Christ?

Temple Square?

The Bible?

The Book of Mormon?

Bob Millet?

Hell?

Joseph Smith

Counter-cult ministries

Okay, I know you are behind the very nice and gentle greeting of LDS outside of Temple square in their general conferences. Tell us about this?

What is the purpose? Is it more for the Christians out there who are doing mean stuff or is it for the LDS? If it's for the LDS, what is the purpose?

Finally, let's talk about the Bob and Greg show?

People want to know: Who funds it?

What do YOU think it does for Mormonism and Christianity?

Polygamy

(May 9, 2006)

This is our tenth show!

- Since March 7th we've fielded more than 200 live calls.
- We've responded to hundreds of emails.
- And we've sent out well over 100 books.

But no matter what is said, done or discussed, most of the comments we receive from the LDS side of the fence continue to say something to the effect of:

"We are Christian. You just don't understand."

Last night I was in a shuttle going to my hotel when a very nice . . .

Tonight show is going to sting a little bit. I want to apologize in advance not for the content but that I am going to address the topic in the first place.

I don't like to "attack using history", I like to "address using the present."

But as I considered tonight's topic, it became evident that I had to lay the history out because this history continues to affect the present LDS Church and a MAJOR reason it cannot be embraced as Christian.

Please know that when I am speaking to MORMON'S, my speech is focused on Jesus, rebirth, and the Bible.

But when I am speaking to MORMONISM – THE INSTITUTION – my focus is on doctrine and practice.

I hope this makes sense.

So with some trepidation, allow me to introduce to you this week's reason why present day MORMONISM cannot be considered to represent the Gospel of Jesus: (whisper) polygamy.

Hang on! Hang on! Let me explain.

Present day Mormonism has worked very hard at distancing itself from accusations of polygamy.

Almost every news story on the subject today seems to include the disclaimer that “present day Mormonism abandoned the practice over a hundred years ago. It is now an excommunicable offence.”

Before we discuss the error of this, let's consider some origins.

Remember, I wouldn't mention this history of the LDS Church if the practice was no longer part of the present-day religion. But it is.

In 1830, a fourteen year old girl named Fanny Alger joined the LDS Church and moved into Joseph Smith's home as a servant sometime thereafter.

Around 1833, when Fanny would have been just 16 or 17 years old, she became Joseph Smith's first polygamist wife – unbeknownst to Emma.

This is not anti-Mormon rhetoric. This is an important historical fact.

I read from Richard Bushman's recent book, *Joseph Smith, Rough Stone Rolling*, page 437: (and by the way, Bushman is an active member of the LDS Church)

(read highlights on page 437)

According to experts on the subject of LDS polygamy (like Todd Compton) Joseph Smith was secretly involved in plural marriage as early as 1833.

He recorded a written revelation of the commandment ten years later in 1843, but the actual public announcement of the revelation on plural marriage came out nine years later in 1852 in what is now known as Section 132 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

This Section of the Doctrine and Covenants remains intact and is accepted as canon in the LDS Church today.

Did you hear me?

Before 1840, Joseph Smith is thought to have married two women in addition to his first wife, Emma. Some say three.

In 1841, he married three more women.

In 1842, he married another eleven.

And in 1843 he married seventeen more.

Over the course of his polygamous years Joseph married somewhere between 28 and 33 women. The majority of them he kept secret from his first wife, Emma.

Ten of Joseph's wives were under the age of 20 when he married them.

Eight were married to other men when they became his wife.

In the actual marriage ceremonies, Joseph dictated the words of the marriage to the person who was performing the marriage for him.

All of this was done in the name of God. Joseph said it was God's will.

And according to Doctrine and Covenants 132, it is His will for every person wanting to live in the highest realms of heaven.

Did you hear this? Present-day, the LDS Church maintains this section of revelation as divine in their scriptures.

Joseph Smith told one prospective wife that giving in to plural marriage would "ensure your eternal salvation & exaltation and that of your father's household & all your kindred."

Joseph told another father who gave him his daughter as a plural wife that the marriage, “shall be crowned upon your heads with honor and immortality and eternal life to all your house both old and young.”

Speaking of plural marriage, the *current* Doctrine and Covenants section 132 states matter-of-factly: “I reveal unto you a New and Everlasting Covenant and if ye abide not that covenant, then ye are damned.”

Polygamy remains a vivid reality in the present-day Church in two ways distinct ways.

First, it is practiced and accepted spiritually among members of the Church. How does this work?

“If I were an active Latter-day Saint and my wife passed away . . .
(*Temple marriage for men.*)

(*Temple marriage for women.*)

Second, polygamy continues to be emphasized in the Church by virtue of the fact that Doctrine and Covenants 132 remains a living part of present LDS scripture!

It’s true. It has never been rescinded! The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints still supports and upholds polygamy as an eternal law of heaven. The doctrine is still there.

There are LDS leaders both in the Church and in their government who have said as recently as last night that the present-day Church has nothing to do with polygamy.

This is an outright, categorical, falsehood, made either in sheer ignorance or out of deception.

I challenge the “brethren” to visit this section of their scripture and officially renounce it and remove it, stating that it was always “an uninspired practice of Man and not in line with Christian ideals of love, morality, and Christian marriage.”

God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Eve and Jane.

Polygamy produces pain. Plain and simple. It always has, it always will. And it is NOT a practice of God's or those who live with Him.

Now, many Mormons will continue to insist on saying:

"But, we don't practice it. It's just part of our past."

Think about this, my brothers and sisters!

Suppose I said to my children, "You know kids, I think doing drugs is an eternal principle. I think God does drugs, I think He'll want us to do drugs, and I think it is part of his plan. In fact, when I go to the temple, I'm allowed to do drugs "spiritually" in preparation for an eternity of drug use I'll have once I die. Boy it'll be glorious. Now, kids, we are told we are not to do drugs in this life, because of laws of the land, but someday, boy, it's gonna be party on, Garth!"

What kind of message does this send? Does the fact that it's not practiced have anything to do with the fact that its seeds are still planted via accepted doctrine and that it is practiced spiritually in LDS temples?

No.

I remember when I was on a high council years ago. A member of our home ward at the time confided to me in passing that he thought a particular sister in the ward would make a "really fine wife" someday!

He was already married and so was she!

Examine your hearts, men of the LDS Church! You know it has crossed your mind! And what puts the thought there? Your own desire for power, control, lust, or luxury.

1John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Mormon women, ask your husbands if they are looking forward to when they will take on more wives. Ask them if this has been a desire of their hearts.

Then look at Section 132 and demand rescission!

An active member of the LDS Church today can NEVER say with a clear conscious that MORMONISM is Christian.

You fathers and mothers out there with daughters.

Would you want some man taking your sweet girls to be his wife when she was a teenager? Or along with 20 other women?

I cannot fathom such a practice in the lives of my daughters now or in the eternities.

But let me let you in on a little secret. It's a secret that reveals the heart of Man – which I have at time.

Every now and again, I wouldn't mind having myself a few extra women around the house. In the kitchen. In the garage. Out in the work force. Having my babies.

What a power trip, huh?

What variety, right?

They take care of the house, each other, the kids and I just walk around, you know, like God.

You getting the picture. The sick, sick, twisted picture.

This is TWISTIANITY, not CHRISTIANITY.

And the LDS Church leaders need to be real men and stand up and renounce it past, present, and future.

This would truly be a step toward the cross of Jesus Christ.

Clarification

(May 15, 2006)

Brief History of Paul – Jew of Jews, heart for His people.

ROMANS 10

1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Brethren and sisters, my hearts desire and prayer to God is for Latter-day Saints is they might be saved.

- Lots of emails (some of which we'll cover later).
- Message board posts quadrupled.
- Received some very angry accusations.
- My well being has been threatened.
- I have become a "bleeping-bleeping bleep."
- Ignorant, fat, liar who is bitter and full of deception.

Forgive me of this anecdotal story, but it truly illustrates much of the misunderstanding people are having in relation to my intentions and this show.

I grew up in Southern California . . .

Junior Lifeguard Program

15 years old final year

Mr. Bray.

- ocean life guarding legend.
- tough salty sea dog 20 years my senior.
- did not like me.
- Angry, insulting, ridiculed me about areas I was deficient.
- Hated him because I knew he hated me.

One afternoon . . . (tell pier swim story)

A year later, I stood with almost 400 men and women in a try out to become a real ocean lifeguard.

When the starting gun went off . . .
(kicked, elbowed, punched, pulled-back, and nearly drown).

I learned a few years later from those who interviewed me that Mr. Bray gave me a very high personal recommendation for the job.

Instead of hating me, Mr. Bray **was willing to be hated by me**, in an effort to break those things apart that would hinder my preparedness for the job.

Now more than ever people are accusing me of hating Mormon people.

I want to say here and now that the Mormon people are my people.

I seek to openly and honestly address those things that are NOT Christian to help these people I love know Jesus. I am not afraid to say those things you never hear, my LDS friend.

Last week I addressed one doctrinal point that needs to be removed from LDS canon.

ANY aspect of plural marriage – spiritually practiced, in print, or thought - should be immediately and completely abolished.

Had a eighty year old woman call this morning from Provo to teach me why polygamy is so important. She is an active Latter-day Saint!

She said that in order for men to become God's and to populate the worlds they create, they need many wives to bear these spirit babies.

This is NOT just from fundamentalist minds. It is from active LDS people. It is the basic teaching of D&C 132!

What I do is painful. It is confrontational. It may even be insulting to you.

But LDS Church doctrine and practice has gone uncontested in this state for far too long.

(LA TIMES ARTICLE)

Polygamy in this state today is a direct result of Joseph Smith's doctrine and personal practices.

There have been bombings, murders, lost boys, even kidnappings of young girls from the safety of their beds over the years! WHY?

Doctrine and Covenants 132.

Did you ever think of that?

So I say, out of love for my LDS brothers and sisters, that members should . . .

**“Having nothing to do
with 132!!!”**

(HOLD UP BUMPER STICKER)

1) On last weeks show, we had a caller named Natalie from Taylorsville who took exception to my saying that the Church promotes the idea that a living prophet trumps a dead one.

(READ BENSON SPEECH)

2) Had a man named Steven post on our website that my reading/ interpretation of D&C 132 was a lie, that I read the Section out of context. He also wrote:

(READ #2)

3) A woman called last week and when she couldn't get me to agree with her point of view, began to attack me. This is a standard response.

I got an email from another man that reads:

(READ #3)

4) Another email, from billjane stated:

DOG VOMIT THEOLOGY.

However, we also received the following:

(READ #4)

Finally, we received dozens upon dozens of calls about my take on polygamy.

These calls can be broken down into three camps.

Camp number one: LDS do not believe in polygamy.

Camp number two: Polygamy is a great principle. The practice was evident and of God in the Old Testament. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob.

Camp number three: Why are you doing this?

The Cross

(May 23, 2006)

We have a number of people write or call asking how they can know if they are truly born-again?

Our first three shows, which you can watch for free online, detail a number of ways. One of the biggest outward ways is your praise of the Lord.

- Do you praise and worship Him?
- Do you pray continually?

Tonight, I'd like to share another attitude that occurs in the life of regenerated believers that cannot be faked or forced:

HOW THEY VIEW THE CROSS

- Interestingly enough, when most Latter-day Saints are asked if they are really Christian, most ardently confirm that they are.
- (I remind the audience that I believe there is a great difference between the doctrines of Mormonism and the heart-felt beliefs of many Mormons.)
- But still a number of crucial differences exist between what Mormonism proposes, and what the Bible supports as Christian.
- Perhaps one of the most obvious and seemingly unimportant differences – the absence or presence of the cross – may turn out to be one of the most telling differences after all.
- We live in a world of symbols. Some of them are internationally recognized, others are locally important.
- Institutionally generated symbols help remind people of their allegiance to a cause or group and are typically pregnant with meaning and purpose.
- The American Flag, The Star of David, The Golden Arches, and a Peace Sign all speak to a specific group, agenda, and philosophy of life.
- To Christians, the cross is symbolically central to most of the important thing in their spiritual lives. To some it says suffering, but it also shouts freedom from sin, liberty, wonderment, and awe.
- It represents the Gospel, the Lord Jesus Christ, and God's love.

- It invokes gratitude, homage, assurance, and peace.
- To Latter-day Saints, the cross is, well, recognized as the place of Jesus physical death, but it is rarely seen in any LDS buildings.
- Why?
- On my full time mission when people would ask, “How come you don’t have crosses in or on your churches?” I was taught in the MTC to say something to the effect of : “Well, suppose someone you loved very much was murdered by a buck knife. How would you like it if people stuck replicas of bloody buck knives all over the place in memoriam of him?”
- As an unregenerate believer, and therefore not capable of understanding the Bible, I thought this response was so wise.
- It made sense to me logically because I had an intellectual understanding of His death and sacrifice but no personal, biblical understanding of what that time on the cross REALLY meant.
- When I was born-again, I almost immediately developed a new understanding and love for the symbol of the cross. I wasn’t taught about it, I didn’t have to think about it or choose to love it, I just did.
- Why? What changed for me? How could I go from holding an object that was “logically repulsive under the religious auspices of normal reverence and respect” to viewing it as an object of love and gratitude which causes me to ponder and praise Jesus whenever I see it today?
- Maybe, like I was, you are unaware of what the Bible says about the cross. Maybe you are unaware of its full and significant meaning.

The cross of Christ is taken three ways in scripture, materially, metaphorically, and metonymically.

The material cross of Christ is the object he died upon.

- It is believed that the LORD was crucified on a TAU (from the Greek letter for T), which is also known as the St. Anthony’s Cross. This cross no top to it (like the Latin cross) but instead looks like a capital T.
- The Latin Cross is the lower case “t” often depicted in art.
- The material cross is very important to the Church of Rome. It is not so important to most Protestant believers around the world.

The metaphorical cross of Christ, is afflictions,

Luke 9:28 “Let him take up the cross” means to submit to any afflictions God allows us to face. God oft-times sanctifies this cross, for the crucifying the hearts of his people to the world.

Romans 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is **crucified** with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

But the cross of Christ is taken metonymically for the gospel, the doctrine of the gospel, or of him that died upon the cross. In my opinion, all references to the cross are important, but this association really touches on its present-day significance.

Listen very carefully to these verses.

1st Corinthians 1:17-18 “For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest **the cross of Christ** should be made of none effect. For the **preaching of the cross** is to them that perish foolishness; **but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.**

What is “the preaching of the cross, Latter-day Saints?”

In Galatians (5:11) Paul refers to “**the offence of the cross.**”

How can the cross be “an offence?”

Is the cross an offence to you or is it a symbol of joy, peace, and God’s great love. How you view the cross is very dependent on whether you have been spiritually reborn or not and whether you truly understand Jesus.

In Galatians 6:12-14 Paul writes

“... only lest they should **suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.**

Paul states here that he has nothing to glory in than the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. He doesn’t say he glories in the Garden? He doesn’t say He glories in ordinances. He glories **ONLY** in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:16

And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body **by the cross**, having slain the enmity thereby:

By the cross; by his bloody death on the cross as an expiation for sin. By slaying the enmity between all peoples on the cross, Jesus annulled the Jewish ceremonial law.

How about a few more.

Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, **even the death of the cross**.

Unto death (mechri thanatou). "Until death." Yea, the death of the cross (thanatou de staurou). The bottom rung in the ladder from the Throne of God. Jesus came all the way down to the most despised death of all, a condemned criminal on the accursed cross.

This is important stuff, my friends, because Jesus didn't suffer for the sickness and sins of the world in private. God the Father had Him out in the public eye, suffering for the sins of the world for all to see.

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him **endured the cross, despising the shame**, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

He was shamed.

He was brought to the lowest of low.

Hung on a tree with criminals.

Spit on, mistreated, shamed, and ridiculed publicly for what?

For you and I. Here is where all of God's wrath was focused.

What greater ploy than to get people – well meaning people – to take their eyes off the very place where they were reconciled to God!

Those of you who aren't aware of this, Latter-day Saints believe that Jesus atoned for the sins of the world in the Garden of Gethsemane. All biblical passages point to the CROSS, the CROSS!

Once again, LDS doctrine subtly tosses in a tiny twist, a little variance, a slight alteration – which amounts to nothing more than counterfeit theology and a distancing of people from who Jesus was and what He did.

Listen!

Colossians 1:20 And, having made peace through the **blood of his cross**, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

And, having made peace through the blood of his cross! He made peace through the cross! He endured shame on the cross! He reconciled us by the cross! He fulfilled the Law on the cross! He killed enmity on the cross! We are one with God by the cross.

Now listen to this. Listen.

Colossians 2:14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

When Christ was nailed to the cross, our obligation to fulfill these ordinances was done away.

Are you getting the picture here?

What happened on that cross altered, fulfilled, completed, atoned, connected, made one all of what God had intended from the beginning!

May the Latter-day Saints add a cross-bar to those chapel spires out of respect, adoration, and worship of Jesus Christ.

May they remove Moroni and rent every temple veil in the name of Him who already did the job . . . with His life.

Religion or Relationship

(May 30, 2006)

LAST WEEK . . .

A LDS CALLER NAMED STEVE . . .

“the difference between the LDS Church and being a born-again Christian is that we do not believe that Christ comes into your heart and does all the hard work.”

I was so happy Steve called and said this on the air because in a sense it encapsulates an essential difference between Mormonism and Christianity – one preaches religious allegiance and the other preaches a relationship with Jesus.

Let's examine briefly.

To begin with, Christians believe that Jesus does dwell in them:

John 14:18-20 I will not leave you orphans. I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world does not see Me any more. But you see Me. Because I live, you shall live also. At that day you shall know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, **and I in you.**

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, **but Christ liveth in me:** and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Ephesians 3:17 That **Christ may dwell** in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love.

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the

Latter-day Saints do not speak of Jesus dwelling in them, as Steve so boldly proclaimed.

They talk of having the “Spirit” which is not the same thing to them as having Jesus dwell in them.

Obviously, the Bible teaches Jesus will dwell in them that have faith in Him.

What does this difference say theologically?

Is this only semantics? Does it make a difference?

Yes. And because the mindset is so different between what Christians believe and Latter-day Saints, the results are enormously different as well.

Our caller Steve also said that the LDS do not believe the Jesus does all the “hard work.” Another truism about Mormonism. They believe they do all the hard work.

They put their shoulder to the wheel and push along.

But NOTHING could be more untrue in an exegetical biblical study!

door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, **I will come in to him**, and will sup with him, and he with me.

LISTEN!

Philippians 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is

All glory is in the Lord. We do no thing.
All work is from Him. He does it.
All strength is by Him. Not the flesh.
All Love is through Him. Not ourselves.

If the atonement of Jesus – meaning the suffering for sin – was all that He needed to accomplish in His mission, Jesus could have come down from heaven as an adult, made the required payment with his suffering and death, and the world could have been sinless before the Father.

But we would have presented ourselves to God as a zero sum gain.

**Justified but NOT sanctified!
Clean, but totally unprofitable.**

Now Latter-day Saints would say, well the righteousness we do of ourselves will please God!

How does a soiled creation please a perfect and holy God? By what means?

through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.

LISTEN!

1st Corinthians 1:27-31 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and God has chosen the base things of the world, and things which are despised, and things which are not, in order to bring to nothing things that are; so that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who of God is made to us wisdom and righteousness and sanctification and redemption; so that, according as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord."

Our Faith in His Son pleases God, not the works of our flesh! Our faith in His Son, our faith in Him justifying us. Our faith in Him sanctifying us!

You see, my LDS friends, it truly **is** all Jesus.

**He justified us before the Father.
He sanctified us before the Father.
Our faith in him pleases God.
Leaving no room for our flesh to glory!**

Now, some Latter-day Saints will quote
Philippians 2:12 that says . . .

Did you hear this Steve?

Do you understand this, my LDS friends?

I'm not sure you do. Why?

Because Mormonism presents an altogether
different Gospel.

READ BUSHMAN QUOTE (Page 314)

Hebrews 11:6 . . . without faith it is
impossible to please God . . .

AND

1st Corinthians 1:29 tells us that no
flesh can glory in His presence!

Philippians 2:12 . . . work out your
own salvation with fear and trembling.

**BUT READ THIS VERSE IN
CONTEXT . . . PLEASE. WHAT
DOES THE FOLLOWING VERSE
SAY?????**

For it is God which worketh in you
both to will and to do of his good
pleasure.

In other words, Joseph introduced this non-biblical method to the Saints, a method that is still practiced today:

Make yourself holy and God will accept you.

Live righteously and you will earn a place with Him.

Live by the Law: the Law of rituals, the Law of ordinances, the Law of cleansing your heart, and you will come to know God and truth.

But the Bible teaches an altogether different approach!

Romans 5:8 But God commends His love toward us in that **while we were yet sinners** Christ died for us.

Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Romans 11:6 But if by grace, then it is no more of works; otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it is of works, then it is no more of grace; otherwise work is no more work.

2nd Corinthians 12:9 And He said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for

**Do you EVER hear these verses read in an LDS meeting or class? Ever?
ASK YOURSELF WHY???????**

The religious system of “sanctifying one self to be worthy of God’s blessings is not only unbiblical, it is COUNTER to the essential saving principles of saving faith!

I think this quote really helps summarize what I am attempting to teach:

(READ RELIGION and GRACE QUOTE IN BIBLE)

What is the fallout from this alternate system of our righteousness, our diligence, our works?

It’s Bondage.

It’s uncertainty.

It’s Prozac.

It’s living an “I’ve got to” kind of life rather than an “I get to” kind of life.

It’s serving in an “I have to” religion instead of an “I want to” relationship.

**It’s relationship over religion, my friends.
Grace over Law.**

IN CONCLUSION . . .

Imagine it is your wife’s birthday, men.

- I got you some flowers.
- Had to, it’s your birthday.
- On sale, anyway.

Imagine it’s not your wife’s birthday.

- Sneak up behind her and present her with a gorgeous

My power is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may overshadow me.

bouquet.

- What's the occasion?
- I love you. Appreciate you.
Mean the world to me.

This is relationship over religion.

I pray you will find it.

CONCLUSION

We were all sinners and all need to be saved not by our works but by faith.

Titus 3:3-7 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,
Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;
That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

IT IS HIM, NOT US.

Colossians 1:19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all fullness should dwell. And through Him having made peace through the blood of His cross, it pleased the Father to reconcile all things to Himself through Him, whether

the things on earth or the things in Heaven. And you, who were once alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and without blame, and without charge in His sight.

GRACE GETS US TO DO MORE!

1st Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace which was toward me has not been without fruit, but I labored more abundantly than all of them; yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

2 Timothy 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began

Church

(June 6, 2006)

DRIFTING

- **When I was a teenager, Dad had a small fishing boat.**
- This live call in show, easy to drift from where we want to be.
- **Easy to get sidetracked.**

RE-ESTABLISH OUR POSITION

- Our purpose is to introduce LDS to the reality of genuine, life-altering, spiritual regeneration and to emphasize the infallibility of the Bible.
- **This is our mission, ministry, book, and show.**
- So while I maintain strong opinions on LDS doctrines, practice, and theology, they are at best secondary when compared to the importance I place on Latter-day Saints being spiritual reborn through faith on Jesus Christ.
- **In others words, our motto might be: “*Jesus first, religion later.*”**

“MAN WAS MADE TO WORSHIP”

- **All people have an intrinsic need to worship.**
- Some people worship God, some Church, some authority, some pagan Gods.
- **Some people worship money, fame, material, family, some even worship a celebrity, an idea, or even a spouse.**
- Bob Dylan: “Well it may be the devil or it may be the Lord but you’re gonna have to serve somebody.”
- **God built the need to worship into the human make-up just like his built the need to swim in a fish.**
- It’s a tool that enables everyone to find Him.

RELIGION

- **Corporations, institutions, and organized religion has capitalized on this human need and offered “structured mechanisms” to help people fulfill their need to worship, to belong, to be accepted, and to stand apart from the shuffling masses.**

- When it comes to organized religion in this fallen world, we seem to face two general approaches:

A legalistic approach and a “Liberty in the Lord” approach.

There are positives and negatives to both.

- **Mormonism provides one of the finest examples of a legalistic church:**
 - 1) Top down authority
 - 2) Name brand rituals required for life with God.
 - 3) Dress codes
 - 4) Standard rites of passage in priesthood, missions, temple marriage.
 - 5) Standardized organization (McDonalds)
 - 6) Own culture, language, definitions and terms.
 - 7) It is very corporate, very centralized, and extremely rigid in the delivery of its message.
- **The majority of Churches representative in the Body of Christ generally represent a more liberal organizational structure, including:**
 - 1) Singular and/or localized authority.
 - 2) An absence of demanded rituals and rites.
 - 3) Lack of dress codes or grooming standards.
 - 4) Discontinuity from other like-minded churches.

In the face of these differences, Latter-day Saints tend to find solace in the fact that anywhere you go you will find the same Gospel taught, from the same authorized manuals, presented in similar settings, and supported by a common culture, depending on the country.

To Mormons, this order and sameness evidences divine truth, the absolute will of God, and the self-proclaimed fact that they are the “only True Church on the face of the earth.”

For Latter-day Saints, the Church, among other things, offers the “comfort of consistency.” But the by-product of such an approach produces, “a demand for conformity and the denial of human complexity.”

A “conform or be cast out” type of thing

Hard as this is to hear, in Mormonism - the Church - is God. And it makes thinking, decision making, and questions of allegiance very simple because it has all been done for them in advance.

Christianity, on the other hand, faces an assortment of blessings and problems that legalistic religions (like Mormonism) rarely experience.

A sense of divine and diverse liberality generally overflows truly Christian services making worship, prayer, and genuine expression normative.

With less standards of conformity imposed from the pulpit, many Christian congregates are free to bask in their relationship with God instead of worrying about meeting the standards of their neighbor, Bishop, or culture.

Galatians 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

The law, ordinances, rituals, cultural conformities, health codes, Sabbath-days, endless genealogies, temple works, and pass-down priesthood authority have all been crushed by the liberty of the cross and believers are to walk after the Lord in the liberty of His love. Praise God!

But liberality has the tendency to invite an abuse of power, the misappropriation of funds, soft-selling biblical truth to appealing entertainments, and bickering within the Body itself.

There are pros and cons to dining at McDonalds or the Mom and Pop Corner Café.

(BERLIN WALL EXAMPLE)

RECOMMENDING CHURCHES

Of late, we have been getting a number of requests for recommended Churches in the greater Utah area.

This has become a problem for our ministry because we want to send our searching LDS friends and family to places where they are going to truly experience what the Lord wants them to experience.

(EXAMPLE OF ATTENDING A GREAT FILM OR RESTAURANT AND WANTING YOUR FAMILY TO EXPERIENCE IT?)

In Acts chapter two, shortly after the day of Pentecost where the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the Church, we read of how the earliest Church functioned:

*ACT 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the **apostles' doctrine** and **fellowship**, and in **breaking of bread**, and in **prayers**.*

And later it reads

*And they, continuing **daily** with **one accord** in the temple, and breaking bread from **house to house**, did eat their meat with **gladness and singleness of heart**, **praising God**, and having favour with all the people. And **the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved**.*

- I think THIS is the model for the Church of Jesus Christ.
- They study the Word of God.
- They Worshipped God
- They Walked with God
- They Witnessed God

As we open up the phone lines tonight, let's conclude by discussing these areas briefly.

First, the Word of God.

- teach the Bible.
- to arm congregates than from teaching the Word of God.
- I think congregates should have their Bible with them – it's their manual.
- I think Pastors should teach from it, get references from it, refer to it, and thoroughly understand it front to back.

Personal stories and seeker friendly tactics do little to prepare people for the onslaught of warfare Satan will pour out upon them as new believers.

Believers need to be fed the Word of God.

Look back on my life as a child, I don't remember every meal my mother made, in fact I remember very few actual dinners, but I know I was fed and fed well. The same is true of preaching and teaching the Word of God.

Second, Worship God

- Prayer and worship are a large part of being Christian.
- Songs from the heart to the Lord are a blessing.
- Good, viable, living worship is a must for any thriving Christian church.
- It should be a house of prayer.

Third, the people and leaders should Walk with God.

- Most Churches carry on the personality of the Pastor.
- The believers attitude and approach to Jesus are amplified and evidenced in him.
- A church must have an attitude of joy in the Lord, faith, praise, love, mercy, longsuffering, kindness, cheerfulness.
- If a Church pastor is mean, greedy, focused on money, power, or hate for other people – including hate for the LDS – you should run from them. Find a Church where the Pastor really, truly walks the walk of Love. A shepherds heart.
- Why would a sheep want to stay on the ranch of a person who beats it if it is on the farm of a person who loves and feeds it?

Finally, the church must “Witness for God.”

- The Church should evidence some aspect of the great commission.
- They should be dedicated to peaceably and lovingly sharing Jesus with others.
- The first three W’s – the Word, Worship, and Walk – all lend to this last one, witnessing.
- Witnessing for Jesus in love. Representing to the world what they stand for, not what they stand against.

I challenge the Christian Churches of Utah to be Churches that a Latter-day Saint would feel welcomed attending. NO SOFTSELL, but truth in love.

I challenge each of the pastors to feed the flock and not fleece or beat them.

I challenge every Christian Church in Utah to lovingly share the truth with your Mormon neighbors, friends, and family in word and deed.

AND I CHALLENGE YOU TO WALK FROM ANY CHURCH THAT ATTEMPTS TO ROB YOU OF ONE BIT OF THE LOVE AND LIBERTY JESUS OFFERS.

Bible Temples

(June 13, 2006)

Begin with a casual talk tonight about a biblical truth – where God dwells.

- I believe God can be everywhere and anywhere.

- **Psalms 139:8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.**

But God has made some very specific places His home.

FIRST HOME: ADAM AND EVE

God made Mankind in His image. Some think this means physically, but this goes against all the verses that say God is a spirit.

Instead, like God, we are composed of three parts – Body, Soul, and Spirit.

(Genesis 1:27 And God created man in His image; in the image of God He created him. He created them male and female.)

(1 Thessalonians 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your *whole spirit* and *soul* and *body* be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.)

Man is the only creation made in God's image.

Man is therefore, the only creation with a body, a soul, and a spirit.

God walked with Adam and Eve in their spirit before they sinned.

Sin – filth, defilement, - separated God from Adam and Eve – and Man.

Man is left to operate by our SOUL. Psuche: Will, heart, emotions, ideas, creativity

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

SECOND HOME: THE TEMPLE

First it was a tabernacle, then Solomon made it a temple.

This word TEMPLE is generally used in the OT Scripture and Gospels as the sacred house erected on the summit of Mount Moriah for the worship of God.

"the temple" (1Ki 6:17);
"the temple [R.V., 'house'] of the Lord" (2Ki 11:10);
"thy holy temple" (Ps 79:1);
"the house of the Lord" (2Ch 23:5,12);
"the house of the God of Jacob" (Isa 2:3);
"the house of my glory" (Isa 60:7);
"house of prayer" (Isa 56:7; Mt 21:13);
"an house of sacrifice" (2Ch 7:12);
"the house of their sanctuary" (2Ch 36:17);
"the mountain of the Lord's house" (Isa 2:2);
"our holy and our beautiful house" (Isa 64:11);
"the holy mount" (Isa 27:13);
"the palace for the Lord God" (1Ch 29:1);
"the tabernacle of witness" (2Ch 24:6);
"Zion" (Ps 74:2; 84:7).
Christ calls it "my Father's house" (John 2:16).

There is only ONE TEMPLE geographically in the Bible and it was constructed with exact specifications from God.

Why?

Because it all pointed to Jesus Christ. All of it. (Too much time maybe another time)

The summit of Mount Moriah, on which the temple stood, is now occupied by the Haram esh-Sherif, i.e., "the sacred enclosure" on which presently stands the Mohammedan mosque called Kubbet es-Sahkra i.e., the "Dome of the Rock," or the Mosque of Omar. This mosque covers the site of Solomon's temple.

This is the only temple site ever recognized by the Jews.

Like God, like Adam and Eve, the temple was constructed of three parts – an outer court, an inner court, and a Holy of Holies.

It was in the Holy of Holies that God made His home on earth

A sanctified high priest would go once a year and offer sacrifice therein.

- rope around waist
- veil two teams of oxen (McGee)

About the time Jesus started His ministry, this temple was defiled.

In John 2:16 Jesus said “make not MY FATHER’S house an house of merchandise.”

Later, because it had been defiled, God abandoned this house AND ITS PURPOSES.

Jesus then referred to it to the Jews as “your house.” (Matthew 23:38).

Without a temple, God’s edifice, where did God go? To His third house.

even JESUS CHRIST

THIRD HOUSE: JESUS CHRIST

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Jesus was the home of God, a perfect Home, a sinless home.

Jesus was God in the flesh. He revealed to us the nature of God.

John 2:20 Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body.

Was this God’s final home?

Did God move into Jesus and never move out?

No.

Like Adam, a tripartite being, like the temple, a tripartite building, Jesus, a tripartite God, too was defiled by sin – our sin.

And God, like he did in Adam, like He did with the physical temple, moved out. Causing even Jesus Christ – sinless, perfect, and glorious God to cry:

“My God, My God! Why has thou forsaken me?”

When Jesus died, the thick, carpet-like temple veil was rent from the top to the bottom: meaning, God tore it in half, not man.

Why did God tear it in half?

Because it was finished.

It symbolized the fulfillment of the Law in Jesus, the gulf being transfixed, for as in Adam all die even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

GOD'S FINAL HOME:

(REGENERATED BELIEVERS)

Jesus said you must be born-again. This means you will be given a new, cleansed spirit in which God can dwell.

- Jesus sanctifies this spirit in us as our great High Priest.
- Our faith in Him justifies us.
- God will not abandon those in whom He's moved in because it is the work of Jesus that maintains the holiness of the temple in which God resides!

1 Corinthians 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

1 Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

2Co 6:16 for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

TWO INTERESTING GREEK WORDS FOR TEMPLE

See Greek 2413 (hieros)

neuter of 2413; a sacred place, i.e. the entire precincts (whereas 3485 denotes the central sanctuary itself) of the Temple (at Jerusalem or elsewhere):--temple.

Hee-er-on is the Greek word used in the Gospels for temple. IT means the actual building.

See Greek 3485 (naos)

from a primary naio (to dwell); a fane, shrine, temple :--shrine, temple. Compare 2411.

SEE THE GOSPEL OF JOHN'S VERSION OF THIS BECAUSE IT IS TEMPLE(heiros), TEMPLE (heiros) TEMPLE (naos).

Have temple edifices gone away? Not in two distinct ways.

First, the Bible says that the temple will be rebuilt. This is a biblical reality.

Second, the Bible also states that believers now make the physical temple spiritually:

Eph 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Before we go to the phones, viewers must know that

- you become a temple for the spirit of God via spiritual rebirth by faith.
- As a member of the body of Christ, you then become neatly “fit together” with other believers to make up for a corporate holy habitation for the Lord.
- LDS temples have no relation to Ancient Israel’s singular edifice – either in what they were for, or what they are used for.
- The Veil was rent in two.

LDS Temples

(June 20, 2006)

A number of shows ago I mentioned that God placed in human beings the need to worship. This is true.

- Most human beings also have a need to belong to something, to be a part of a grand movement, to serve in a recognizable capacity socially.
- Humans also abhor a vacuum. We need to have gaps filled. (Story of brain injured people).
- Certainty, order, absolutes make existence much easier for humans than mystery or chaos.
- Providing certainty, direction, and opportunities to belong was important to the founder of Mormonism, Joseph Smith.

Last week

- discussed the places God has made His home:
 - Adam and Eve** - Tripartite nature – soul, spirit, body
 - Tabernacle and Temple** - a three in one building – discussed a bit
 - Jesus** - were all the boldness of God dwells bodily
 - Believers** – where He permanently resides today.

I ended my message by stating:

- “LDS temples have no relation or connection to Ancient Israel’s single standing temple. None.”
- What Solomon’s temple was for, what it accomplished, what it will once again be, has nothing to do with LDS temples on the earth today!

So where did LDS temples originate from?

Don’t they have a biblically supported purpose?

Are the rites and rituals biblical, of Jesus, or from some other source?

Before we address these issues, let’s look at another organization that greatly influenced Joseph Smith’s temple rites . . . the Freemasons.

Now some people would like to suggest that Freemasonry – its rites and rituals - began back when Solomon built the temple.

- Masons themselves attempted to perpetuate this myth from very early on in order to establish credibility for their order.
- **But most historians and scholars agree that Freemasonry started sometime in the 16th or 17th century and got legs in the 1800's.**
- Before 1860 the Masons had most people believing that they really were a guild that passed its rituals down from the building of Solomon's temple, but a series of investigations led by scholarly men examined the Masonic paper trails and showed through documentation that Freemasonry got started with the trade guilds of the Middle Ages.

What was Freemasonry?

"It was a closed and secret fraternal organization which promoted brotherhood, unity, protection, and economic support and unity among adherents."

"By unifying themselves under oaths, grips, signs, tokens, words, and the threat of penalty of death, Masons became a powerful group that infiltrated early American life as they grew in number, allegiance and strength."

Freemasonry was and is a secret social club or order that supported virtue, industry, friendship, and loyalty in a community. In a sense, they were like a white mafia, meaning in place of organized crime, they attempted to promote organized goodness.

- And while their precepts were wholesome and uplifting, there is no connection to their rites or rituals, oaths, words, tokens, or threats of death in the bible.
- Scaled back down to a childhood reference, Freemasonry is merely the adult version of a neighborhood tree house with its accompanying secret whistles, handshakes, and knocks.
- * Several years ago I purchased a copy of a book with a very long title:

Duncan's Ritual of Freemasonry or Guide to the Three Symbolic Degrees of the Ancient York Rite and To the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and

The Royal Arch. It was written in 1866 by Malcolm C. Duncan gives the entire rites and rituals of freemasonry starting back to the early 1700's.

- I highly recommend a first hand reading of this little book – front to back – as an introduction not only to the purpose and origin of LDS temples, but to the origin of many LDS things apart from the temple.
- Out of respect – and I had no small amount of trouble deciding on how to approach this – but out of respect for those people who really believe God is behind what they do in LDS temples, I will refrain from mentioning things they would feel are too sacred for public disclosure.
- But listen to some of the other things found as standards in Masonry recorded around 1717:

"mystic veil which has long been lifted"	preface	<i>"the veil has been lifted"</i> - LDS verbiage
Illustration: Compass and the Square	7	temple /garment reference
"brethren"	10	common LDS verbiage
"brother"	10	LDS doctrine/culture application
"they put on an apron"	10	aprons an essential part of temple endowment
"hat, sash, yoke and apron"	12	important temple accoutrements
"Brethren will be properly clothed and in order"	12	temple verbiage
"the Brethren put on their aprons"	12	temple verbiage
"makes the sign"	14	temple instruction
"to introduce, and clothe all visiting Brethren; to receive"	14	temple verbiage

<i>"under no less penalty"</i>	15	temple verbiage
<i>"The left arm . . . forming a square"</i>	16	temple verbiage (fig. 3)
<i>"drop the left arm suddenly and with spirit as soon as the two motions are accomplished"</i>	16	earlier temple (1989 and before) (fig. 4)
<i>"Holy Bible, square and compass"</i>	16	temple references
<i>"Raise the hands (above the head) and drop . . . repeat three times . . . (saying) "O Lord . . . "</i>	18	temple verbiage (fig. 7)
<i>"garments"</i>	19	temple reference (scripture)
<i>"whispers the password . . . in the ear"</i>	20	temple instruction
<i>"all rise to their feet"</i>	20	temple directive
<i>"confirmation will make it known by the usual sign of a Mason (raise the right hand)"</i>	23	LDS verbiage LDS practice <i>"please so indicate by the raising of the right hand"</i>
<i>"those opposed, by the same sign"</i>	23	LDS verbiage (see above)
<i>"found worthy"</i>	24	LDS verbiage, <i>"has been interviewed and found worthy"</i>
<i>"three distinct knocks"</i>	29	temple verbiage
<i>"is he worthy?"</i>	29	LDS verbiage
<i>"Let him enter"</i>	30	temple verbiage
<i>"should you attempt to reveal the secrets"</i>	30	temple verbiage
<i>"Endue him"</i>	30	temple word (<i>Endow</i>)

"Who comes here? Mr. Parker, <i>who has long</i> <i>been in darkness . . . now seeks . . . to receive</i> "	31	temple verbiage
" <i>Own free will</i> "	31	temple verbiage
"I, (state name) of my own free will . . . in the <i>presence of Almighty God . . . that I will always</i> <i>hail, ever conceal, and never reveal</i> "	34	temple verbiage
"token"	35	temple reference
"the Holy Bible is the rule and guide of our faith and practice; the square, to square our actions; the compass, to <i>circumscribe</i> and keep us <i>within</i> <i>bounds</i> of all mankind"	36	temple verbiage
"as <i>the sun rules the day</i> and <i>the moon</i> governs <i>the night</i> "	36	temple verbiage
"By the <i>signs and tokens</i> "	37	temple verbiage
" <i>We are instructed by the first sign</i> to avoid temptation by <i>proper</i> restraint of our <i>passions . . .</i> "	38	temple verbiage
"for <i>further instruction</i> "	40	temple verbiage
"as <i>you are clothed</i> "	40	temple verbiage
" <i>Has it a name?</i> " "It has" "Will you give it to me?" "I did not receive it"	42	temple verbiage
"A <i>new name</i> "	47	temple verbiage
" <i>deeply impressed upon</i> the mind"	55	temple verbiage
"never <i>deviate</i> "	55	temple verbiage
<i>initiated . . .</i> "		(<i>initiatory</i>)
". . . now wishes to receive <i>more light . . .</i> "	60	temple verbiage

" <i>lifting the candidate from his knees at the altar</i> "	67	temple verbiage
"as you <i>increase in knowledge</i> "	79	LDS theology
"when it is <i>conferred</i> "	87	LDS vernacular
"three <i>loud distinct</i> knocks"	88	temple verbiage
" <i>now wishes to receive further light</i> "	89	temple verbiage
"is he <i>worthy</i> and well qualified?"	89	LDS verbiage
" <i>that I will not have illegal carnal intercourse</i> "	95	temple verbiage
"looking conductor <i>in the eye</i> "	97	temple practice
"Moving off, one says, ' <i>Let us report</i> '"	111	temple verbiage & stage direction
"All now, <i>form in a circle . . .</i> the Master makes the signs of 'distress' of a Master Mason, <i>which is done by raising both hands and arms above the head</i> "	116-17	temple practice
"gives him the grand Masonic word on the <i>five points of fellowship</i> "	120	earlier temple (1989 and earlier) (fig. 18)
"orders of the priesthood"	129	LDS theology
"Let me admonish you, in the <i>most serious manner . . .</i> the Sun (sic) of righteousness shall descend and send forth His angels to collect our ransomed dead; then, <i>if we are found worthy</i> , by the benefit of his "pass" we shall gain a ready admission into that <i>celestial</i> Lodge above, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe <i>Presides . . .</i> "	131	LDS rhetoric
"and <i>sealed his pledge with his own blood</i> " (speaking of Hiram Abiff, not Jesus)	132	LDS vernacular atonement Blood atonement

" <i>approbation</i> "	132	LDS verbiage (<i>O My Father</i>)
" <i>Adieu! A heart-warm, fond adieu</i> "	145	Book of Mormon controversy over use
"the veils are now pushed apart to admit the candidate"	235	temple practice
"High Priest"	239	Priesthood office
". . . but the true descendents of the twelve Tribes. It is necessary you should be very particular in tracing your genealogy"	240	LDS theology & practice
"will most readily pledge to do all that is required of them"	267	temple verbiage
PHARASES OF ADMISSION		
"When a candidate receives the First Degree he is said to be <i>initiated</i> , at the second step he is <i>passed</i> , at the third, <i>raised</i> ; when he takes the Mark Degree, he is <i>congratulated</i> (<i>advanced</i>); having passed the chair, he is said to have <i>presided</i> ; when he becomes a Most Excellent Master, he is <i>acknowledged and received</i> ; and when a Royal Arch Mason, he is <i>exalted</i> ."	269	LDS theology Temple verbiage
"the New Era"	281	name of an LDS Periodical

Masonry decided that the Gospel of Jesus Christ was not enough to convince men to live well, but that another order, an institution, a social service group would help the Lord along.

This is the genesis of Mormon temple work.

This is the origin of

- bee hive
- the all seeing eye
- hand-grips
- suns, moons, and stars
- passwords

All of which are emblems of Utah Mormonism today.
All of which are found on the exterior of the Salt Lake City temple.

Also employed as icons of Masonry and Mormonism are

- the compass
- the square
- two triangles forming a six pointed star
- and the phrase, "Holiness to the Lord."

Speaking of Joseph Smith, LDS author Richard Bushman said in his recent book:

"He had a green thumb for growing ideas from tiny seeds. Masonic rites seem to have been one more provocation."

What does this all mean?

First, LDS temples have no connection, similarity, or association with Ancient Israel's temples. None, with the slight exception of the baptismal fonts correlation to the laver.

Second, Freemasonry, another group without connection to the temple of ancient Israel, is a social institution that unifies and supports initiates through a series of tokens, signs, passwords, veils, heavenly icons, sashes, robes, aprons, and penalties. They provide brotherhood, service opportunities, activities and direction for men and families.

Third, LDS temples today have their origin, purpose, and inspiration from Masonry, and the rites and rituals therein are anything but biblical, Christian, or necessary for the salvation of either the living or the dead.

Let's open up the phone lines, and discuss this, or anything else that is on your mind.

Conclusion:

Joseph Smith possessed a pressing desire for those who followed him:

First, he wanted the Saints to have a face to face experience with God, which the Children of Israel were denied because of disobedience. He thought he could establish a society of people who just might be good enough to experience God.

Second, he wanted to gather them into a place he called Zion. He established many "Zion's" with all failing to meet his dream.

Finally, he wanted to establish a community of progressive and powerful people, spiritually, financially, and politically. It was Masonry that gave him the model for this.

Joseph's father joined the Mason's when he was eleven years old. Hyrum joined a few years later. In May of 1842, Joseph Smith advanced through the Masonic order over a two day period in Nauvoo.

Six weeks later, he bestowed the LDS with the endowment for the first time. The similarities were then, and remain today, profound – even exact.

Years later, on July 23rd 1843, the founder of Mormonism said in nothing but a very Masonic tone:

“I will advance from a prophet to priest and then to king, not to the kingdoms of this earth, but of the most high God.”

Nine months later, he was ordained “king” to preside over the political kingdom of God.

Less than a year before he died, Joseph Smith said in an address to the Saints:

“Let me be resurrected with the saints whether to heaven or to hell . . . what do we care if the society is good?”

Joseph attempted to bring heaven on earth himself. The Bible clearly illustrates that God provided another plan.

Society never has been, nor will it ever be “good,” until the true King of Kings and Lord of Lords returns to reign on earth.

I fear that the promises, ways, and wiles of others in the future will have far too great an influence on the hearts and minds of Latter-day Saints seeking to establish “good society.”

I fear they will believe in earthly solutions to spiritual problems. I fear Mormons will sincerely enter into trade with him who offers institutional hope, promises of peace and an earthly society that seems “good” at first.

And in this fear, I conclude by stating that all man-made efforts, societies, regimes, and religions will fail to do for people what the regenerative relationship through Jesus Christ has always offered – genuine peace, truth, and love from Him and Him alone.

Last Week we had a caller named _____ who asked:

Revelation 3:14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God.

1) The beginning of the creation of God (hê archê tês ktiseôs tou theou). Not the first of creatures as the Arians held and Unitarians do now, but the originating source of creation through whom God works (Col 1:15,18, a passage probably known to the Laodiceans, Joh 1:3; Heb 1:2, as is made clear by Re 1:18; 2:8; 3:21; 5:13).

2) (i) Of who all things that are made, have their beginning.

3) The first-born of every creature] I suppose this phrase to mean the same as that, Php 2:9: God hath given him a name which is above every name; he is as man at the head of all the creation of God; nor can he with any propriety be considered as a creature, having himself created all things, and existed before any thing was made. If it be said that God created him first, and that he, by a delegated power from God, created all things, this is most flatly contradicted by the apostle's reasoning in the 16th and 17th verses. {Col 1:16,17} As the Jews term Jehovah Mlwe lv wrwkb becoro shel olam, the first-born of all the world, or of all the creation, to signify his having created or produced all things; (see Wolfius in loc.) so Christ is here termed, and the words which follow in the 16th and 17th {Col 1:16,17} verses are the proof of this. The phraseology is Jewish; and as they apply it to the supreme Being merely to denote his eternal pre-existence, and to point him out as the cause of all things; it is most evident that St. Paul uses it in the same way, and illustrates his meaning in the following words, which would be absolutely absurd if we could suppose that by the former he intended to convey any idea of the inferiority of Jesus Christ.

4) Col 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell;

Finished World

(June 27, 2006)

Kevin Kennington and Mike Winger – Guests

MUSIC AND MESSAGE BY MIKE AND KEVIN

Liberty in Christ

(July 4, 2006)

I. Apology

Start with an apology right off the bat here tonight. Last week I announced that we were going to discuss the Book of Mormon tonight. But we've postponed that show one more week in order to present our best information possible.

II. Tonight

Tonight we are going to talk about something that is very, very, very important to me personally. It has always been important to me – freedom!

Today our nation celebrates what we call Independence Day.

It is a day where we celebrate when our nation's forefathers signed the Declaration of Independence.

In so doing, they essentially said, "I am placing my life on the line in this battle for liberty because *if* we lose this revolutionary war, I am a dead man."

These forefathers wanted liberty and they were willing to die for it.

They wanted out from under the thumb of King George – his taxes, his control, and his demands.

They wanted the liberty to exist without the burdens of tax, state religion, or cultural impositions.

And on this day they signed their names to a relatively insignificant piece of paper (at the time) that essentially condemned them to death if the revolution failed.

III. PERSONAL FREEDOM

I too, have been at a place in my life where I yearned to be free –genuinely free.

And I would have signed my name to a death list if signing gave me the opportunity to know and live in spiritual liberty, freedom, and truth.

I was burdened under the weight of religiosity, of man-made rules, of legalisms, and found myself under the constant scrutiny and condemnation for failure to comply to what men and women testified was necessary to please God.

I too, sought revolution, often in the wrong places, wondering if freedom were possible, if Truth and liberty did exist from a source unencumbered by the notions of Man.

In this quest for liberty and absolute truth, I found myself at the side of a road one day petitioning God in the Name of Jesus Christ, to give me liberty or give me death.

To break the shackles around my heart.

To let me know the liberty that comes from really having a relationship with God.

It was here that God changed my heart.

The war was over.

Freedom was won when certainty in Him – not myself – replaced fear, doubt, and striving.

There's a great story told in the synoptic Gospels that help illustrate the concept of spiritual liberty through Jesus verse the bondage many religions produce in His name.

Let's turn to Mark 3:1-5 (Luke 6:6-11) and **set the scene,**

(Our text is a combination from Mark 3:1-5 and Luke 6:6-11)

- **Jesus has just come from a scene where he is questioned about the Sabbath-day practices of His disciples.**
- **They were eating wheat that they had plucked from the fields on the Sabbath and this infuriated the religious rulers of the day.**
- **Jesus refuted the condemnation by asking the religious leaders about David and the temple shewbread,** and then commented that the Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.
- **He then headed toward the Synagogue, possibly or apparently followed by the same group of religious leaders.**
- Let's read: MARK 3:1-5 (ALL OF IT FROM SCRIPTURES)

Mark 3:1 And He again entered into the synagogue. And a man was there who had a withered right hand.

You know, when we enter church today, we often look to those who seem to have it all together, don't we?

The leaders, the best dressed, the most popular, the obedient and blessed, right?

Not God. Not Jesus. He walked in the synagogue and who does he see? Who does He pay attention to? The one needing the most help.

I propose to you that nothing has changed with Him. I propose that when Jesus looks down into a Church he doesn't see those who've "got it all together," the best dressed, the self-assured, the proud, or the religiously minded.

I propose He sees the broken, the suffering, the weakened and down and out of life. It is to these He gives His attention . . . just like He did when He was on the earth.

VERSE 2

2 And they (the scribes and Pharisees) watched Him to see if He would heal him on the sabbath day, so that they might accuse Him.

You see, these men had religious training, religious ideas, religious methods, and religiously prescribed rights and wrongs.

When people operate by set rules, codes, and laws, they have a built in system to judge and condemn others, which is antithetical to what Jesus taught.

Yes, there was order and meaning in their rules, and this, this, Jesus was breaking

Luke 6:8 But He knew their thoughts and said to the man who had the withered hand, Rise up and stand in the middle. And he arose and stood.

and bending them all to heck right before their eyes!

Now listen to this. Listen!

This is important stuff.

Jesus knew what was in these religionists heads and hearts.

He knew it was against their man-made law to heal on the Sabbath and He knew they were so tied up in rules, they lost the ability to love or have compassion.

IN ESSENCE, THEY DEMANDED ALLEGIANCE TO THEIR RELIGION OVER HEALING THIS MAN!

It was church over Christ!

Legalism over love! (PAUSE)

Religious rules over righteous deeds.

So Jesus asks the crippled man to stand up right in the middle of all the religious leaders!

It was almost as if the Lord was saying to him:

“Arise, you have nothing to lose but your chains!”

Now, the man could have refused.

He could have run away or doubted.

He could have looked over to the Bishop or

Mark 3:4 And He said to them, I will ask you one thing: Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? To save life, or to kill? But they were silent.

Stake President and asked: “Is it okay to this, oh religious intermediary?”

But he didn’t!

Listen: He followed, he followed what Jesus told him to do!

This is faith!

This is faith from a man who desperately wanted to be free – both physically, and I would suggest maybe even moreso religiously.

And so Jesus has this man with the withered hand standing in the middle of all these religious leaders, and he turns to the leaders and speaks . . . verse 4 in Mark.

Jesus was pushing their religion right back into their face with a very straightforward question.

And what did they do?

They were silent! Why!?

Because their religion had reckoned them unreasonable. It had become a burden that defied the normal, simple, liberty God desires for all of His children.

It served nothing but itself. It served rules within rules within rules. It was man-made ridiculousness in the face of human reality.

Form over function.

Mark 3:5 And looking around on them with anger, being grieved because of the hardness of their hearts . . .

Isn't it amazing that Jesus even had to ask them : "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath days?"

"How ironic! How pathetic!"

Then we get to an interesting reaction from Jesus.

(read it)

When we think of Jesus we think of love, compassion, humility, and kindness. But here we read anger.

This is telling.

It is also the only time the Word describes Jesus as angry (casting the moneychangers out of the temple never says He was angry – it's just implied).

And He was angry because he knew their hearts!

Hearts more concerned about their religious rules than human suffering.

Hearts set, in the end, on murder – the murder of liberty, and ultimately, the murder of the Lord.

Mark writes often about Jesus "looking;"

Can you imagine the "look" Jesus gave these religiously minded leaders as He stared them in their eyes?

Then He turned back to the man with the withered hand and said

“Stretch out your hand! “

And he stretched it out. And his hand was restored whole, like the other.

Now this was an impossibility! The man’s hand was withered! How could he stretch it out? Again, the man could have refused, he could have hesitated, he could have said it was impossible, but Jesus told him to stretch forth his withered, bound, tied-up hand! What did he do?

If you are LDS, or under the rule of any organized religion or religious ruler, there are two very important elements to this story that speak to liberty in Christ Jesus.

First, Jesus is calling you to stand up amidst the religious leaders of your life and look to Him.

They might scoff.

They might threaten.

They might warn you that you are going to lose your salvation by leaving their organization for a relationship with the Lord.

But stand up and look to Him who is the way, truth and life.

The second thing to do once you have stood is to reach out to Him.

Reach out to Jesus in unfettered faith.

Are you withered and bound-up? Reach out to Jesus Christ!

Are you burdened by a religion that demands, demands, demands?
Reach out to Jesus!

Have you been born-again, been given a

new heart, and know your place with God if you were to die?

If not, reach out to Jesus.

Turn from the religious rhetoric in your life!

Walk from man-made religion that keeps you bound!

Trust in the only one who can give you peace, life, and salvation.

Jesus came to the man with the withered hand and offered Himself as the way to freedom, liberty and truth.

He didn't offer Joseph or another man-made religious institution.

He didn't offer temple rituals.

He didn't offer modern-day prophets and apostles.

He said, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

I know you face insurmountable rejection for choosing Jesus over religion . . . especially in this state.

I know you face the loss of work, family, marriage, children, fellowship and security.

How do I know?

I've been there.

I know the reactions that come from people when they hear you have become

<p>FOLLOW-UP ON THE STORY Luke 6:11 And they (the religious rulers) were filled with madness, and talked with one another as to what they might do to Jesus.</p>	<p>“born-again.”</p> <p>I know very well most of the arguments they will throw your way.</p> <p>But all of those arguments have one purpose – to keep you in.</p> <p>Use today, the 4th of July, 2006, to be your day of liberty.</p> <p>To get out.</p> <p>Make it a day of independence from man-made religion and make it your first day of dependence upon the Lord alone.</p> <p>I promise you that He will give you all you need - peace, rest, and a new life.</p> <p>How can a person ever go wrong trusting God too much?</p> <p>(PAUSE)</p> <p>All right, let's open the phone lines.</p>
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The Book of Mormon

(July 11, 2006)

It has been said that “So many hack at the branches few strike at the root.”

Tonight we are going to the root – to the Heart of the Matter - regarding the Book of Mormon.

READY?

- few issues more misunderstood in the Mormon/Christian debate – from both sides of the aisle – than the Book of Mormon.
- **Christians think the BOM contains unique Mormon doctrine – it doesn't.**
- Mormons think it's an historic record – its not.

So let's talk in terms of the facts – good or bad.

- **Now I know we are going to get emails – If not calls – from well-meaning people saying:**

“Shawn, I just know the Book of Mormon is true. I just know it. The Spirit has told me” or “I feel it in my heart.”

While your sincerity is accepted, it has little to do with the realities of the book.

And hard as it is sometimes, we must deal in reality and not let our subjective desires or the indoctrination of our childhood color our perspectives.

Right? Right.

(STORY)

The Book of Mormon claims to be a record of people living in the Americas between 600 B.C.E. and 421 C.E. These people got to the Americas by leaving Jerusalem and crossing the sea in a boat.

Once here, they broke into two great nations, built a thriving civilization, warred, and in the end nearly exterminated each other. Over time those who remained became the American Indian.

One of the last Prophets, a man named Mormon, took the records of these people and compiled them on Golden Plates.

As the story goes, he gave these records to his son Moroni, who buried them in a hill in New York around 421 AD.

And Joseph Smith then claimed that Moroni visited him and told him where the plates were buried.

NOW, Let's look at ten facts regarding the Book of Mormon.

Alright, fact number ONE (or reality Number One):

The book of Mormon is not the "Mormon Bible."

It does not replace the Bible as a Bible.

Mormons consider the Book of Mormon to be "Another Witness of Jesus Christ" a subtitle that was added to the book in the 1980's.

Latter-day Saints use the King James Version of the Bible with their own cross references, including some reinterpretations by Joseph Smith.

Reality Number TWO:

- The Book of Mormon does NOT teach all the odd and unbiblical things that make Mormonism what it is today.

- Most of these doctrines and practices come from other "revelations" Joseph Smith claimed to receive which are contained in either the doctrine and Covenants, the Pearl of Great Price, or the revelations of Joseph Smith.

The Book of Mormon does NOT teach:

the temple endowment

the Garden as a place of atonement

three degrees of glory

Mother in Heaven

eternal progression

Aaronic Priesthood

that God was once a man

that matter is eternal

the LDS version of the conception of Jesus

a plurality of God's

the Word of Wisdom

polygamy (except to condemn it)

premortal existence

blood atonement

Satan and Jesus as spiritual brothers

the ability for Man to become a God

polytheism

baptism for the dead

eternal marriage

or that Jesus was created

Fact THREE:

The Book of Mormon does, in fact, teach and emphasize many 19th century religious themes popular among Christian sects at the time.

These themes include:

need for spiritual rebirth

the trinity (and a few other concepts on the ontology of one God)

the incarnation of God as Jesus

missionary zeal

revivalistic worship themes (clapping hands in services, etc.)

divine healings

baptism of the Holy Spirit

Jesus Christ crucified

traditional virgin Mary theology

the Law of Moses

Fact FOUR:

The Book of Mormon also teaches/expounds upon a variety of common 19th century cultural themes that were popular among many Christian Restorationist at that time.

Religious Restorationists were men and women who believed that the primitive church of Jesus needed to be re-established on earth.

Joseph Smith's family were definitely restorationists.

Popular restorationist platforms found in the Mormonism include:

A rejection of a paid clergy, titles, and denominationalism.

A rejection of Calvinistic Theology.

A Church using only the name of Jesus Christ.

A belief that God's kingdom was to be established in America (a process known as "building Zion").

The rejection of all Christian creeds.

A belief in an apostasy and a need for a reformation.

A faith AND works doctrine.

A focus on sequential acts that lead to salvation.

A frontier based "spirit of self-reliance."

A restitution of tithing.

A refocus on Sabbath-day activities.

A need for the Bible to be retranslated.

The repulsion of secret societies and combinations.

An agrarian attitude (meaning people should work with ones own hands).

All of these themes are woven into the story fabric that makes up much of the context of Book of Mormon.

Fact FIVE:

The angel Moroni appeared to Joseph on a very important night for people involved in the occult or folk magic practices.

It was the night of the autumnal equinox, September 22st 1823, beginning at midnight.

Folk magic practitioners believed that the veil between heaven and earth was particularly thin at this time which allowed for communication between heavenly hosts and humans – especially in finding buried treasures.

Joseph said Moroni appeared to him on five separate occasions in the first twenty-four hours. It would be four full years before the angel would allow him to get actually get a hold of the plates.

During these four years Joseph was commanded to return to the hill Cumorah (on this very same autumnal equinox anniversary) and meet with Moroni. It was here that Moroni would reappear and instruct him on various heavenly matters.

Church history claims that many other angelic visitors also tutored Joseph during these years he didn't have the gold plates. These visitors included Nephi, Alma, Mormon, the twelve disciples Jesus had chosen during His visit to the Americas.

Sometimes Joseph's family would gather around in the evenings and Joseph would rehearse to them what these angels taught him about this so-called ancient American civilization. Joseph Smith's mother wrote:

“During our evening conversations, Joseph would occasionally give us some of the most amusing recitals that could be imagined. He would describe the ancient inhabitants of this continent, their dress, mode of traveling, and the animals upon which they rode; their cities, their buildings, with every particular; their mode of warfare; and also their religious worship. This he would do with as much ease, seemingly, as if he had spent his whole life with them.” (*Biographical Sketches*, p. 85.)

Fact FIVE:

The Book of Mormon, based on LDS timelines, was not translated in weeks or months as many Latter-day Saints are wont to claim.

There was a six to seven year period between the time Joseph Smith announced that an ancient record existed and when he actually produced a manuscript from them.

Few people ever speak to this fact.

The claims that Joseph translated the book in a matter of months may be a belief, but the facts are there was a seven to eight year period of time for its production.

Fact SIX:

Joseph Smith did NOT translate the Book of Mormon by looking at the mysterious Golden Plates through a Urim and Thummim and translating what they contained.

(Show picture)

Most reputable LDS accounts state that the Book of Mormon was translated by inspiration which came from one of several means:

- 1) **By Joseph Smith looking into his favorite “seer-stone.”**
- 2) **By Joseph Smith looking into a hat and dictating what he saw.**
- 3) **By Joseph Smith receiving revelation directly from heaven and reciting it to a scribe.**

In the end, the Golden Plates had very little to do with the translation process. In fact, the Golden Plates were more often than not even present when Joseph Smith was dictating what they were supposed to have said.

Fact SEVEN:

Joseph was strictly commanded by the Angel Moroni not to show the plates to anyone. And he didn't.

Latter-day Saints always point to the three and eight witnesses of the plates, but I challenge every member to closely examine these claims – how they were written, who wrote them, and how the plates were actually “seen.”

(I've always found it interesting that the angel didn't tell him to not tell anyone about the plates either – I'm sure it would have reduced the “persecution” he received for having them. Oh well.)

Joseph claimed that the angel Moroni would at times transport the plates from one place to the next as Joseph traveled.

Based on a chronology endorsed by the Church, the angel Moroni is said to have visited Joseph Smith at least twenty-two times between Sept 22 1823 and June 1829.

The Church also claims Joseph was “tutored by celestial beings” making his work reliable and trusted whereas “much of man's formal education is tentative, wrong, or outdated within a few years of graduation.”

Fact EIGHT:

The LDS Church has always maintained that the Book of Mormon is the “most correct book” on the face of the earth, and that people will “draw closer to God by reading it than any other book.”

After God accepted the book as correct, over 3900 non-punctuation changes were made in it.

Brigham Young said of this most correct book: “If the Book of Mormon were now to be rewritten, it would materially differ from the present translation.”
(July 13th 1862, JD 9:311 9:305)

- Was the Book truly a recording of an ancient people?

- Is the Book the most correct book of earth?
- Did young Joseph actually receive revelation from God to write it?

Fact NINE

Much of the Book of Mormon came from borrowed themes found in a variety of sources available to Joseph Smith and his family at that time. These sources include:

The Apocrypha (see particularly the Book of Maccabees)

James Adair's History of the American Indians

Josephus' War of the Jews

Ethan Smith's View of the Hebrews

An article from the October 22 1823 Wayne Sentinel

Solomon Spauldings, Manuscript Found

The preface to the King James Bible printed in 1769

and The Golden Pot by Eta Hoffman

I challenge EVERY SINGLE BOOK OF MORMON believing person out there to investigate these sources themselves and directly.

Don't read some commentary on them but read these resources yourself. And mark your Books of Mormon accordingly.

Perhaps the greatest evidence of direct, anachronistic plagiarism found in the Book of Mormon comes from the Bible itself.

My respected friend and scholar Michael Marquardt examined the Book of Mormon for anachronistic issues.

Of the hundreds he found, we've put one simple one the screen for you to see.

being grieved because of the hardness of their hearts	being grieved for the hardness of their hearts
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(1 Nephi 2:18; 7:8)	(Mark 3:5)
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Mark 3:5 being grieved <sullupeq> for <epi> the hardness <porosis> of their <autos> hearts <kardia>

Mr 3:5 sullupoumeno epi pwrwsei kardia autwn

without transliteration, the Greek actually reads “grieved for porosis hearts of their”

EXPLAIN THIS!



(EXAMPLE)

To clarify, it would be like me saying I found a 600 year old ancient book from Jerusalem in my backyard and translated it.

But when you read through it, you come across phrases and words that belong to a completely different era, words like “microwave popcorn,” “Boeing 747,” and “McDonald’s Happy meal.”

What would you say about the ancient book I discovered in my back yard?

Immediately, you would know my so called discovery is in the least constructed of borrowed material.

But even in light of these facts – FACTS – Latter-day Saints insist on maintaining the idea that the Book of Mormon is an ancient document.

Before I read Fact # TEN, let’s open the phone lines (801) 973-TV20 973-8820 so the operators can start shifting the wheat from the chaff.

Alright, fact Ten!

The dangers of embracing or accepting the Book of Mormon are not what most people believe.

In and of itself, the Book is primarily a 19th century piece of fictional literature that conveys a story of biblical proportions. Its messages are either directly or indirectly Christ centered. Its themes fantastic and fanciful.

There are arguably very few issues or doctrines in the Book of Mormon that are in conflict with the Bible.

So what’s the problem?

The problem is in the association with what comes attached to belief in the book!

By accepting the fictional Book of Mormon (which, by the way, the first edition listed Joseph Smith as the author and proprietor of it) you automatically take two detrimental positions in your life as a Christian:

First, you tacitly place the Bible in the shadow of an inferior fictional counterfeit. Your view of God's Word becomes distorted by reading Joseph's words.

The Book of Mormon has not one single

archeological proof
linguistic proof
genetic proof
historical proof
cultural proof
or grammatical proof

NOT ONE!

The Bible has substantial, often irrefutable proofs, in every one of these areas.

Ask yourself this:

If the Bible was infallible and inerrant, would a Book of Mormon be needed?

The answer is a categorical no!. NEVER!

Therefore, in an effort to establish this new and revised religion, Mormonism had to demean and attack the Bible.

And this is what they have done.

Second, by embracing the fictional Book of Mormon, you are prone to embrace all the other things associated with Joseph Smith and Mormonism today.

The LDS church is HUGE on saying that the Book of Mormon is the key stone to the religion.

That "the entire truth of the Church hangs on whether the Book of Mormon is true or not."

That "if the Book of Mormon is true, then everything else is true too."

This is as logical as saying that if Les Miserables is true, then everything Victor Hugo stood for is true too.

NO!

If I were going to establish my own religion or movement, it would only make sense to provide an entirely new manual that “expounded or illuminated” beyond what the “poor Bible” was capable of doing.

Every religious start-up requires NEW REVELATION! Get it!

This is nothing new.

But it always boils down to an attack on the Word of God. ALWAYS.

Look at all the extrabiblical LDS scripture.

Look at the Koran.

The Yee Jing,
the Upanishads,
the Avesta,
the Dhammapada,
the Nab Hammadi codices,
the Kabbalah?

What about the Jehovah’s Witnesses New World Translation.

If you want to know Jesus Christ, give Him your will and read His Word. Period.

It will reveal more of Him and His truths than any plagiarized, anachronistic piece of religious fiction.

Check my facts! Question my data! Consider me a liar but look into it yourself!

Alright . . . dare I open the phone lines tonight? ☺

Let’s go to our first caller.

CONCLUSION

The Bible does not ask you to ask God if it’s true. It is Truth.

Recommended Resources on the BOM:

Grant Palmers, “An Insiders View of Mormon Origins”
Any of Michael Marquarts research.
“Exiles in the Land of Liberty” by Winn

The Bible

(July 18, 2006)

SHOUT OUT to all the PRISONERS out there:

- Prisoners to SIN
- **Prisoners at the Point of the Mountain – Hey ya, brothers!**
- And prisoners of RELIGION
- **In each case, we send out our love, a heartfelt “Howdy Partner” and remind you that the answer to genuine and lasting FREEDOM is but a heart-felt prayer away.**

In Matthew chapter four, Jesus had just finished fasting forty days in the wilderness and was hungry. Fittingly, the Devil came to tempt Him with three specific temptations.

Each of Satan’s offers were met with rejection by Jesus.

Each of these rejections were prefaced by Jesus saying, “It is written.”

To what was Jesus referring when he said, “It is written?”

How could Jesus trust such ancient writings?

Why didn’t Satan question Jesus about the reliability of what he was quoting?

We stand today in a very precarious place today.

- since time immemorial critical men and women have attacked what has been written - the Word of God - as faulty, insufficient, untrustworthy, and contradictory.
- **Scholars of supposed higher criticism have consistently challenged the Word of God with their facts . . . (beat) . . . time and time again they have consistently been proven wrong.**

Now we EXPECT the world to attack the Word of God.

We EXPECT faithless academics, the sinful, and the proud to hate it.

But it is especially disconcerting when people of supposed Christian faith join in the fray and discount, legitimize, and even bastardize the Holy Word of God.

Mormonism has clearly been among the scoffers and it is my opinion that the GREATEST crime the LDS Church has corporately committed is influencing its members to distrust the Bible.

This is unconscionable.

Tonight's show is dedicated to defending the Bible and presenting it to you as something you can wholly trust, wholly believe, and wholly rely.

I am committed to the idea that when it says, "It is written," It was written. By men, inspired of God, with God's message and we can trust it today.

So let's get into it by laying out a very general outline which lends to the Bible's authenticity and strength, not weakness.

First, the Bible did not come down to us from heaven via fax machine. God doesn't usually work this way.

- **God breathed it into existence, using human beings to bring it forth and out. These human beings were different men, with differing missions, backgrounds, and insights.**
- Sixty-six different books
written by forty different human revelators
from three different continents
in at least three different languages
over a period of 1500 years is an amazing fact!
- **Why? Because it does NOT contradict itself. And every record contextually supports other records claims. This is frankly amazing.**

Why did Moses write? So we could consider it untrustworthy?

Why did God have prophets record their revelations? So believers could read it and wonder what was from Him and what was not? So we could question every word? So we could doubt it?

Prophets wrote it, Jesus quoted it, and I believe it. Period.

TWO: The individual books did not derive their "authority" and "authenticity" as being of God *because* they were selected to be included in the Bible. Each of the books are from God and simply waited to be gathered and included in His Holy Book.

In other words, men, or a church, or a council, did not make the books of the Bible inspired because they chose to include them, but they were put in the Bible because God authored them in the first place.

GET IT?

There's a huge difference between writings "becoming" inspired because they are included in the Bible and books being included in the Bible because they were inspired by God in the first place.

The cynic, the unbeliever, takes the former position, the faithful take the latter.

Three: The first five books of the Bible, the Pentateuch, were already considered authoritative scripture by the time of Ezra in the fifth century BCE.

Did you know that God considers His Word of higher import than His own name?

(Psalms 138:2) "for thou hast magnified **thy word** above all thy name."

Think about this, attackers of the Bible!

Consider this you arrogant scoffers who question the Word.

Do you actually believe in a God who would speak His Word, have faithful men record them, and then not have the ability to see that they came through to this generation as He desires?

This is sick, man-made faithlessness.

Thinking bent on getting people to take a another course.

The Bible **MUST** be called into question before men can effectively introduce their own philosophies to the world. It must. And it has.

Four: Without going into great detail, Old Testament scribes and scholars were exacting, tedious, and relentless in transcribing the Word of God.

If a mistake was made, the whole parchment or scroll was tossed away immediately.

Writing the Name of God was a particularly precarious action where they would trash the whole thing if God's name was fouled up.

When the scribe finished copying a particular book, he would count all the words and letters it contained. Then he checked the count against the manuscript tally from which he was working.

He also noted the middle word of the book and the middle letter of the book and compared it to the scroll. Through these careful checks, errors were caught and corrected.

Older manuscripts were burned as newer ones were completed, NOT because of changes, but because of wear and tear.

The Dead Sea Scroll findings proved by a thousand years earlier how exact the process of writing sacred script was.

Five: Around 285 B.C. seventy Jewish scholars came to Alexandria and under the direction of the Ptolomies translated the Old Testament (what the Jews call the TANACK) from Hebrew and into Koine Greek.

The resulting translation is called the Septuagint. It provided a tremendous bridge between the Hebrew and Greek worlds and by New Testament times was the most widely used edition of the Old Testament.

The existence of the Septuagint essentially solidified the existence of the Old Testament books.

Six: There was a time span of approximately 400 years between the Old and New Testament writings (called the intertestamentary period) where the heavens were silent. During this time, many books of the Apocrypha were written.

Apocryphal books were not considered inspired when the Bible as we know it was compiled. However, they were included in the Septuagint and remain today in the Roman Catholic Church Version of the Bible by command of Augustine in the late 4th Century.

Neither the Jews or Christians of Palestine ever accepted the apocryphal books as scripture.

Seven: The terms “Old Testament and “New Testament” originated with the Prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 31:31).

The word “testament” means covenant and Jesus, being the long awaited Messiah, made the “New Covenant” with God’s people.

The Old Covenant contains – amidst history and poetry – prophecies pointing to Jesus. The New Covenant, amidst parables and historical events, provides the fulfillment of these Old Testament prophecies.

Some of the prophecies found in the Old Testament include:

Jesus would be betrayed by a friend (Psalm 41:9)

Jesus would be sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12)

Jesus would be forsaken by His disciples (Zechariah 13:7)

Jesus would be silent before His accusers (Isaiah 53:7)

Lots would be cast for His garments (Psalm 22:18)

There would be darkness over the land (Amos 8:9)

Jesus would be buried in a rich mans tomb (Isaiah 53:9)

Eight: By the time Jesus was 12 years old, the Old Testament had been translated, copied and recopied, and brought forth over a 1400 year period – in other words, Jesus read and quoted from the writings that were more older to Him than the New Testament recordings were to our generation (all things considered).

He knew it and taught it by the time He was 12. Why? He trusted it!

Do you recall what Jesus said in Mark 13:31?

“HEAVEN AND EARTH WILL PASS AWAY BUT MY WORD WILL NEVER PASS AWAY” (MARK 13:31)

Mark 13:31 <ouranos> <kai> <ge><parerchomai><de><mou><logos> <parerchomai> <ou me><parerchomai>.

The “not” pass away – ou me – is a double negative strengthening the denial to its utmost: it states it will “never-ever, not ever, in no way ever, impossible for them to, cannot ever” pass away.

Did God not only lose the power to keep His Word pure but to fulfill His promises? NO! He said His Words will not ever or in anyway pass away!

I trust this. I trust God is true to His promises.

Where do you place your trust?

In your opinions?

In your notions and feelings?

In books without ANY history or substantiation that you have been taught are divine?

Nine:

The Gospels of the New Testament – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John – are actually a continuation of the Old Testament. They speak of Jesus coming to earth, His ministry among God's chosen people, and their rejection of Him.

Jesus came to showed them that He was the ONLY way because He was the only one righteous. His words made all men and women sinners. His words condemn each of us, hopefully resigning us to the fact that we NEED Him.

The actual New Testament doesn't really begin until Chapter Two of the book of Acts (which is the Day of Pentecost).

Ten:

After the Day of Pentecost, those firsthand witnesses of the Lord Jesus and those closely associated with them, wrote letters and revelations as inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Before these writings were ever collected and included in what we call the New Testament they were considered inspired.

In 2nd Peter 3:15, Peter equates Paul's Letters to scripture.

(LISTEN to what Peter says!)

2nd Peter 3:15 . . . even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; 16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

After _____ recorded _____ the Holy Spirit ceased to inspire men to write.

How come?

From Genesis to Revelation, the purpose of the Bible was to point to Jesus. Nothing more in terms of writing is needed to accomplish this.

The Old Testament said He was coming.

The Gospels said He came.

The New Testament said how to follow Him in Spirit and Truth.

What else had to be said?

It's not that God has stopped speaking to men and women today. Of course He speaks to us – by His Spirit and His Word.

But CANONICAL writings are another thing.

The Word Canon, in classical Greek, is properly understood as a straight rod, "a rule" in the widest sense, "the rule of the Church," "the rule of faith," "the rule of truth."

When the canon or “rule of truth” is complete what is the need for more – especially when additions are introduced that are in OPPOSITION to existing, historically accurate texts of God?

Eleven:

There were several factors early Christian leaders took into consideration regarding what to include and what to exclude from “the rule of truth” or canon.

Here are the major considerations:

- the book had to have a history of being included in Christian worship.
- **the book had to have a connection to an apostle of Christ.**
- the book had to evidence power in the lives of believers.
- **the book had to maintain a “consistency of doctrine.”**

(In the Gnostic Gospel of Thomas, it quotes Jesus as saying):

“Lucky is the lion that the human will eat, so that the lion will become human. And foul is human that the lion will eat, and the lion still will become human.”

Doesn't sound like consistent doctrine does it? Well, it isn't. So it was excluded.

- the book had to ratify Christian virtue and spiritual values.
- **the books had to be in harmony/unity regardless of prose or style.**

Quoting again from verse 14 in the Gnostic Gospel of Thomas it reads:

“If you fast, you bring sin upon yourselves, and if you pray, you will be condemned, and if you give to charity, you will harm your spirits.”

Obviously, this clap-trap is outside the harmony and unity of the other inspired books . . . so it was excluded.

Tertullian states that by 150 A.D. the Church in Rome had compiled a list of New Testament books that matches what we would call the Bible today.

The Muratonian Canon fragment dating from 170 A.D. lists the same New Testament books that we have in the Protestant Bible today.

If we take all the writings of the early Church fathers

Irenaeus
Justin Martyr
Polycarp
Ignatius
and Clement

all but eleven verses of our PRESENT NEW TESTAMENT could be reconstructed and compiled through their writings alone.

In other words, the entire New Testament text, with the exception of eleven verses, is quoted in the early church writers writings.

Twelve:

The Bible can either be wholly trusted or it cannot.

There is no middle ground.

It is either translated correctly or it is not.

Why do I say this?

In, *The Bible as an Insufficient Guide*, LDS Apostle Orson Pratt said:

“add all this imperfect information to the uncertainty of the translation, and who, in his right mind, could, for one moment, suppose the Bible in its present form to be a perfect guide? Who knows that even one verse of the whole Bible has escaped pollution, so as to convey the same sense that it did in the original.”

Orson Pratt, LDS Apostle, *The Bible as an Insufficient Guide*, 1851, p. 47.

The purpose of the Bible is to point people to Jesus, the salvation He offers, and the Christian walk He prescribes.

To state or infer that the Bible is polluted, fallible, or unreliable, is to create doubt in the minds of anyone who has listened to such a position.

What is the Heart of the Matter result?

Every time a Latter-day Saint reads the Bible, they discount it in their heart if not their mind.

Every time they read a passage that causes them to think, they put it in the “not correctly translated bin.”

Every time the Word causes them to wonder, they think of corrupted texts, evil copyists, and uninspired philosophies of men.

And what is the result?

A bastardized view of Jesus, of the salvations He offers, and of the Christian Walk He prescribes.

It is time for Latter-day Saints to look their ideas of Jesus in the face and instead of turning to the logic and wisdom of Man, but to turn to the word and say confidently and faithfully

“It is written.”

“It is written.”

“It is written.”

OTHER THOUGHTS

There are NO ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS OF THE BIBLE LEFT TODAY.

To many, this is a delightful fact because with it they attempt to build a case against the validity, authenticity, and trustworthiness of the Bible.

But to put this in the proper perspective, imagine that the ORIGINAL constitution of the United States of America was suddenly destroyed.

Would this mean we wouldn't have a clue as to its contents? HARDLY, because from the replications, the commentaries, the particles, and the condemnations of this historical document, the whole could easily and accurately be reconstructed.

The same is true of the Bible.

From handwritten documents, scholarly references, papyrus scrolls, uncials, miniscuals, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the dozens of thousands of fragmentary pieces of Holy writ, the Bible can and has been authenticated.

It's historically supported.

It's genetically proven.

Its diverse and expansive commentaries are in complete harmony with all other books therein.

The oldest copy of the complete New Testament, written in Greek, dates to about 350 A.D. and is called the Codex Sinaiticus.

Jerome took the established books of the Old and New Covenants at around 385 A.D. and translated them into the Latin Vulgate.

Sometime before 1228, Steven Langdon created chapter divisions.

In 1384, John Wycliffe translated the Latin Bible in English. The Catholic church denounced Wycliffe as heretical because it was forbidden to translate the Bible.

In 1455 the first reproduction of the Bible was made. It was called the Guttenberg Bible. Forty-eight still exist today.

Around 1530, William Tyndale believed everyone should have a chance to read the Bible, not just the few who understood Latin. So he translated it into English and had it reproduced. His Bible was burned as untrue, and he was arrested and imprisoned as a heretic before being executed by strangulation in Antwerp before they burned his body at the stake in 1536.

The Miles Coverdale Bible was the first to move the Apocryphal books to a separate section called "noncanonical" in 1535.

The Geneva Bible, in 1560, began to include some chapter and verse divisions.

The first Bible printed in the United States was the Aiken Bible which congress authorized in 1781.

In 1928, an American printer decided to put the direct quotations of Jesus in red ink, coining the term "it's a red letter day" in American nomenclature.

In 1952 The Revised Standard Version came out and modernized the King James Version using current biblical scholarship to determine the underlying Greek and Hebrew texts.

Not much has changed in this wonderful, beautiful, life-altering Word of God through all the millennia, through all the translations, through all the copying, and amidst all the attempts to kill it dead.

Jesus said in John 10:35

“ . . . the scripture cannot be broken.”

Praise God. It is either true or it is not.

LDS QUOTES AGAINST THE BIBLE

1) The most reliable way to measure the accuracy of any biblical passage is not by comparing different texts, but by comparison with the Book of Mormon and modern-day revelations. -- **First Presidency, *LDS Church News*, June 20, 1992. p. 3.**

Add all this imperfect information to the uncertainty of the translation, and who, in his right mind, could, for one moment, suppose the Bible in its present form to be a perfect guide? Who knows that even one verse of the whole Bible has escaped pollution, so as to

convey the same sense that it did in the original. – **Orson Pratt, LDS Apostle, *The Bible as an Insufficient Guide*, 1851, p. 47.**

The Bible bears true witness of God and His gospel as far as it is translated correctly. Many plain and precious things have been deleted, however; and the Book of Mormon is

the means, provided by divine wisdom, to pour forth the gospel word as it was given in perfection to the ancients. It has come to preserve and sustain the Bible, not distort or dilute its message Satan guided his servants in taking many plain and precious things, and many of the covenants of the Lord, from the Bible, so that men would stumble and fall and lose their souls. When these truths and doctrines and covenants are

restored through the Book of Mormon, what may we expect from Satan and from his servants? Their natural reaction – their craft is in danger! – will be to poison the minds of

men against the Nephite scripture, so they will continue to stumble as they rely on the Bible alone. – **Bruce R. McConkie, *Millennial Messiah* (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book. 1982) pp. 160-161, 164.**

FACTS ON THE BIBLE

Bible

Bi'ble.

The Bible is the name given to the revelation of God to man contained in sixty-six books or pamphlets, bound together and forming one book and only one, for it has in reality one author and one purpose and plan, and is the development of one scheme of the redemption of man. I. ITS NAMES.--

See Names

(1) The Bible, i.e. The Book, from the Greek "ta biblia," the books. The word is derived from a root designating the inner bark of the linden tree, on which the ancients wrote their books. It is the book as being superior to all other books. But the application of the word BIBLE to the collected books of the Old and New Testaments is not to be traced farther back than the fifth century of our era. (2) The Scriptures, i.e. the writings, as recording what was spoken by God. (3) The Oracles, i.e. the things spoken, because the Bible is what God spoke to man, and hence also called (4) The Word. (5) The Testaments or Covenants, because it is the testimony of God to man, the truths to which God bears witness; and is also the covenant or agreement of God with man for his salvation. (6) The Law, to express that it contains God's commands to men. II. COMPOSITION.--The Bible consists of two great parts, called the Old and New Testaments, separated by an interval of nearly four hundred years. These Testaments are further divided into sixty-six books, thirty-nine in the Old Testament and twenty-seven in the New. These books are a library in themselves being written in every known form old literature. Twenty-two of them are historical, five are poetical, eighteen are prophetic, twenty-one are epistolary. They contain logical arguments, poetry, songs and hymns, history, biography, stories, parables, fables, eloquence, law, letters and philosophy. There are at least thirty-six different authors, who wrote in three continents, in many countries, in three languages, and from every possible human standpoint. Among these authors were kings, farmers, mechanics, scientific men, lawyers, generals, fishermen, ministers and priests, a tax-collector, a doctor, some rich, some poor, some city bred, some country born--thus touching all the experiences of men extending over 1500 years. III. UNITY.--And yet the Bible is but one book, because God was its real author, and therefore, though he added new revelations as men could receive them, he never had to change what was once revealed. The Bible is a unit, because (1) It has but one purpose, the salvation of men. (2) The character of God is the same. (3) The moral law is the same. (4) It contains the development of one great scheme of salvation. IV. ORIGINAL LANGUAGES.--The Old Testament was written in Hebrew, a Shemitic language, except that parts of the books of Ezra

Ezr 5:8; 6:12; 7:12-26

and of Daniel

Da 2:4-7,28

and one verse in Jeremiah

Jer 10:11

were written in the Chaldee language. The New Testament is written wholly in Greek. V. ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS OF THE ORIGINAL.--There are no ancient Hebrew manuscripts older than the tenth century, but we know that these are in the main correct, because we have a translation of the Hebrew into Greek, called the Septuagint, made nearly three hundred years before Christ. Our Hebrew Bibles are a reprint from what is called the Masoretic text. The ancient Hebrew had only the consonant printed, and the vowels were vocalized in pronunciation, but were not written. Some Jewish scholars living at Tiberias, and at Sora by the Euphrates, from the sixth to the twelfth century, punctuated the Hebrew text, and wrote in the vowel points and other tone-marks to aid in the reading of the Hebrew; and these, together with notes of various kinds, they called Masora (tradition), hence the name Masoretic text. Of the Greek of the New Testament there are a number of ancient manuscripts. They are divided into two kinds, the Uncials, written wholly in capitals, and the Cursives, written in a running hand. The chief of these are-- (1) the Alexandrian (codex Alexandrinus, marked A), so named because it was found in Alexandria in Egypt, in 1628. It dates back to A.D. 350, and is now in the British Museum. (2) The Vatican (codex Vaticanus, B), named from the Vatican library at Rome, where it is kept. Its date is A.D. 300 to

325. (3) The Sinaitic (codex Sinaiticus) so called from the convent of St. Catherine on Mount Sinai, there it was discovered by or Tischendorf in 1844. It is now at St. Petersburg Russia. This is one of the earliest best of all the manuscripts. VI. TRANSLATIONS.--The Old Testament was translated into Greek by a company of learned Jews at Alexandria, who began their labor about the year B.C. 286. It is called the Septuagint, i.e. the seventy, from the tradition that it was translated by seventy (more exactly seventy-two) translators. The Vulgate, or translation of the Bible into Latin by Jerome, A.D. 385-405, is the authorized version of the Roman Catholic Church. The first English translation of the whole Bible was by John de Wicliffe (1324-1384). Then followed that of William Tyndale (1525) and several others. As the sum and fruit of all these appeared our present Authorized Version, or King James Version, in 1611. It was made by forty-seven learned men, in two years and nine months, with a second revision which took nine months longer. These forty-seven formed themselves into six companies, two of whom met at Westminster, two at Oxford and two at Cambridge. The present English edition is an improvement, in typographical and grammatical correctness, upon this revision, and in these respects is nearly perfect. [See VERSIONS]

See Versions, Authorized

A REVISED VERSION of this authorized edition was made by a group of American and English scholars, and in 1881 the Revised New Testament was published simultaneously in the United States and England. Then followed the Revised Old Testament in 1885, and the Apocrypha in 1894. The American revision committee was permitted to publish its own revision, which appeared in 1901 as the American Standard Version. Modern-speech translations have been made from time to time between 1898-1945. Among these were Moulton's Modern Reader's Bible, the Twentieth century New Testament, Weymouth's, Moffatt's, and the American translation. As a result of the modern-speech translations that have appeared and been widely received, the American Revision Committee set to work again, and in 1946 the Revised Standard Version of the New Testament was published.

VII. DIVISIONS INTO CHAPTERS AND VERSES.--The present division of the whole Bible into chapters was made by Cardinal Hugo de St. Gher about 1250. The present division into verses was introduced by Robert Stephens in his Greek Testament, published in 1551, in his edition of the Vulgate, in 1555. The first English Bible printed with these chapters and verses was the Geneva Bible, in 1560.

VIII. CIRCULATION OF THE BIBLE.--The first book ever printed was the Bible; and more Bibles have been printed than any other book. It has been translated, in its entirety or in part, into more than a thousand languages and dialects and various systems for the blind. The American Bible Society (founded in 1816) alone has published over 356 million volumes of Scripture.

Review

(July 25, 2006)

For the benefit of those watching the show for the first time, and for the benefit of those Latter-day Saints and Christians who continue to attack me and my methods, allow a brief introduction into who I've been, who I am, and why I do what I do on this show.

- A. Was raised LDS
 - 1. Born in the covenant
 - 2. Active but rebellious as a teen
 - 3. All served missions. All sealed in LDS temples.
 - 4. After attending BYU, married.
 - 5. Moved back to Southern California
 - i. Elders quorum president
 - ii. Seminary teacher
 - iii. Young Men's
 - iv. High priest - Stake High Council
 - v. Bishopric
 - vi. Mission and Temple prep classes
- B. Whole time, not right with God in my heart.
 - 1. Why? Knew I was a sinner in my heart.
 - 2. Great conflict – no peace.
 - 3. Incapable of making myself “right with God” no matter how hard I tried.
- C. 1997 – end of my rope.
 - 1. Daughters from gymnastics practice in a nearby town.
(TELL STORY)
- D. Continued to be LDS.
 - 1. Now, as recently as three days ago I had someone tell me that the title Born-Again Mormon is not right, not biblical, and quite possibly of the devil!
 - 2. My response: I WAS A BORN-AGAIN MORMON.
 - i. Jesus DID change my heart. He gave me new life!
 - ii. I became a new man in Him.
 - iii. And here's the kicker - I still attended the LDS church!
 - iv. I was a born-again Mormon.
 - 3. So Hear This, all you pinched-faced, hand-wringing, Christian worry warts, you're straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel because the title is real, viable, and in the end, a glory to God!

Our ministry – Born-again Mormon Ministries – do not believe in the “you must change your religion” battle.

Let me give you some reasons why.

First, for Mormons culture, business, politics, and religion are almost inseparable, and to demand that people change their religion is often too much for them to bear.

Second, if you are Christian, you know that salvation is by grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ. Changing religions is NOT a prerequisite nor a guarantee of salvation.

Third, Jesus primary concern organizationally was establishing the Kingdom of God and NOT a new found religion.

Fourth, the term Christian can even be very misleading – not all who call themselves Christians are in Christ and not all in Christ can officially be considered Christian.

Fifth, and as I've stated many times before, there are a number of gaps between what a religion or group teaches and what a people believe.
(Story of being a member and listening to the doubts of members).

Sixth, some LDS beliefs are in harmony with the Word of God and some are not.

Seven, coming out of a religion is a different process for people. Some immediately walk away – usually those who have been hurt by others or are looking for a reason to get out. Others take time. The exact point of transfer from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light is not known as it is individually relative.

Eight, and this is really the important part – people need to be set free by Jesus so they will continue to abide in His liberty and not the licentiousness of Man.

4. And where did my being a Born-Again Mormon lead?
5. To my becoming a CHRISTIAN!

E. Over time, and very slowly, my eyes were opened.

1. I began to gently notice things as a regenerated member of the Church.
 - i. Talked a lot about Man and men – praising them and speaking of them.
 - ii. Little heart felt sentiments for Jesus.
(with the exception of references to “The Savior”, “my elder Brother”)
 - iii. Few teaching on Him that were more than referential.
 - iv. Lot's of modern day prophet teachings (esp. primary)

- v. Lot's of emotionalism, very little exegetical bible learning. (Teaching the Old Testament was nothing of the sort. It was Mormonism through the Old Testament)
- vi. **Visited Primary heard lot's of theology songs aimed at conditioning the children's minds:**
 - "Follow the Prophet"
 - "I want to see the Temple"
 - "Book of Mormon Stories"
 - "Families Can Be Together Forever"
 - "Saturday is a special day"
 - "Pioneer Children Sang as they Walked"
 - "I am a Child of God"

When I visited the young men's, lots of lessons on behavior.

- vii. Lot's of talks/lessons on "rules and must do's."
- viii. Dress codes, Word of Wisdom, sexual abstinence BUT little about the source of strength to overcome the world, even Jesus and God and Faith and Grace!
- ix. **When I examined Sacrament Meeting, I heard the same stuff!**

Where was the JESUS messages?

Where was salvation? Grace? Hope? Trust? Biblical analysis?

- x. The Jesus I was reading about in the Bible was NOT the Jesus of Mormonism.
 - Portrait of authority rather than God incarnate.
 - Clean shaven, white shirt and tie Savior.
 - A sin janitor rather than a life-guide and God.

Then I started to investigate other churches, attending them to see what they were about.

Fortunately, I attended a church close to my home where the Pastor was a Godly man, who taught the Word of God, and who really led the sheep to know and worship God.

In time, and by comparison, I discovered that . . .

- there is a big difference between singing hymns and worshipping God.
- a person could spend an entire life studying the Bible and never run out of interesting and applicable information that relates to Him.
- there is a huge difference between saying the prayer and really praying.

After four years of placing my life in the hands of God, I left the LDS church via excommunication. I requested it, and frankly deserved it.

I knew that by taking this step, I was jeopardizing my marriage, my relationship to my daughters, my extended family, and a half a life time of friends in order to truly follow Jesus.

But there was no way I could – in the face of what God had done for me inside and out – continue to remain LDS.

By stating all of this I am saying to different things to two different audiences.

To the nagging Christian complainers, I am stating that in time, the Lord leads everyone who is His from religion and into a relationship.

And to Latter-day Saints who continue to claim that the Church is Christian, it's not.

PART II How and Why Heart of the Matter?

Soon after leaving the Church, I was lead to write a book.

STORY OF WRITING BOOK
MICHELLE
ON THE AIR
PURPOSE OF THE BOOK, WEBSITE and SHOW

To introduce Latter-day Saints (and others) to the need for spiritual rebirth through faith in Jesus Christ.

To push the LDS Church to embrace the Bible as God's inerrant and infallible Word.

What has been the result since we first aired Heart of the Matter?

WEBSITE: www.bornagainmormon.com
STATISTICS: 500 per month
192,000 in June of this year

Book sales quadrupled
Dozens and dozens of emails sometimes by the hour.

Grace

(August 1, 2006)

RECIPES

Most adults know what a recipe is.

A basic recipe for bread is flour, yeast, shortening, and salt.

If a main ingredient for basic bread is left out or substituted we not only have something incomplete and possibly offensive, we no longer have bread.

Imagine, for example, that in place of flour, we used gun powder or for shortening we used garlic paste, the results would be offensive non-bread.

Sometimes altered recipes even produce a beautiful looking product but upon eating it we discover it to be disgusting and nothing like we thought it would be.

Appearance is only part of what makes a recipe effective or viable.

I often look at things in terms of its recipe.

Humor has its recipes, happiness, beauty, and success all have recipes.

It doesn't matter if it is a bouquet of flowers, a marriage, or the attitude of a young child, everything that exist qualitatively are founded on their composite parts – their ingredients – their recipe.

Just as there are hundreds, if not thousands, of recipes for bread from all over the world, so are there thousands of recipes for what Man has called religion.

Some religious recipes include Jesus, but others do not. Some are based on rules, laws, rites, and rituals, others in pleasure, and still others in sacrificial obedience.

Some religions say theirs is the only recipe God accepts.

Interestingly, the “religion recipe” has not always included God, let alone Jesus.

Many religions are outwardly attractive, with wonderful buildings, manicured lawns, and orderly flower beds, but they are in reality hollow and void of true spiritual fulfillment.

STORY

(Several years ago, my Dad and brother and I attempted our hand at raising raspberries.) = L. Ron Hubbard's, Scientology.

The place was beautiful, progressive, and very well kept. We watched over the years as they erected an enormous production studio from the best of designs and materials.

But did their money and appearance make for a spiritually reliable religion?

What are the ingredients to a church of which God would approve?

Most of you know by now that I personally don't have much of a taste for organized religion, just like I don't have much of an appreciation for Sushimi.

I don't think eating raw fish is wrong or evil, and I respect a person's right to eat and enjoy it, but I never really developed a liking for it and know from experience that people can get awfully sick if such a food isn't properly prepared and presented.

To me the risks of eating Sushimi far outweigh the reward, and there are just too many other options of qualitative nourishment available when it comes to the dining out experience.

In fact, I'd rather go to the ocean or river myself, catch my own Salmon, cook it over an open fire, and taste what God intended me to eat from the beginning.

But in today's world this is not much a viable alternative due to our time and geographical constraints.

So I've learned to adapt, and have chosen to let others catch and prepare my meals, trusting that they have my interest at heart, and not their own, when presenting the product for my consumption.

When it comes to true and living Christianity, religious leaders have to be very careful with the recipes they endeavor to use when feeding the sheep – if they want to do it as God would have them.

The main ingredients of a true Christian religion are similar because they come from the same cookbook.

There are established essential ingredients in the bread of Life, my brothers and sisters.

When the quantities and qualities of the essentials are messed with, left out, or added to (because men have decided they can improve upon what God has

offered) the result is distasteful in the mouth of God – no matter how appealing it may appear or seem to be.

Remember, Proverbs 14:12

“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”

The main ingredients in the Lord’s recipe for His Church include faith, rebirth, prayer, worship, and reading and hearing God’s Word taught.

Perhaps the most dominant ingredient in the Christian recipe is faith, but there is an element to the Lord’s Church that if it is missing or replaced, it makes for an altogether different religion.

This is the singular Christian ingredient of Grace.

In order to truly understand Grace, we need to first look at God’s moral Law.

Did you know that there are two ways to live with God after this life:

- 1) Perfect obedience to God’s moral Law
- 2) or by His Grace which comes by faith in His Son.

The first way is impossible for human beings – nobody can perfectly obey God’s Moral Law – not you, not your Pastor or Bishop, not the Pope or Prophet.

All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

This makes the second way, God’s Grace, the only other way to His Holy presence.

God’s law is perfect, perpetual, holy, spiritual, broad and good. And if it could have saved people it would have . . . and there would have been no need for Jesus.

LISTEN TO THIS . . . LISTEN NOW

Galatians 3:21 If there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

God gave the Children of Israel, under the Old Covenant, His Moral Law. And they could not abide by it. They failed to obey it.

So even though the Law of God is perfect and holy, Mankind has not been able to obey it - ever.

So what did God do?

He sent His Son, who was perfectly obedient, fulfilled the Law, and we are now, through our faith in Him, saved by God's GRACE!

If the Law cannot save us, then no part of the law is necessary regarding our salvation.

Let me say this again:

If the Law cannot save us, then no part of the law is necessary regarding our salvation.

It is either The Law or, or, or it is GRACE!

Listen, listen . . .

ROMANS 11:6

And if by Grace, then it is no more works: otherwise, grace is no more grace!

But if it be works, then it is no more grace, otherwise work is no more work!

In other words, if it is works, then you are saved by works (or the Law). And if by Grace then by Grace. Period.

But it is NOT both.

So, what does it mean to be saved by grace?

It means that our salvation is not based on our ability, or our good hearts, or our tithings, or abstinence from alcohol or tobacco.

Our salvation is completely the result of God's mercy, moreso, HIS GRACE.

Listen to this . . . listen . . .

Romans 9:16

It (salvation) is not of them that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy!

Instead of banishing all of His disobedient creations from His presence, He offered us another way, a better way, the ONLY way, the perfect way . . . and He offers us salvation by His loving GRACE because of His Son's righteous sacrifice!

A simplified (and kind of crude) acronym for the meaning of Grace might be this:

God's **R**iches **A**t **C**hrist's **E**xpense.

Justice is getting what we deserve. As sinners, we deserve death and banishment.

Mercy means not getting what we deserve.

But Grace is getting what we don't deserve.

Does salvation come by justice, by mercy, or by grace?

Let's read in Ephesians chapter 2 starting at verse 1 to understand how we have been saved by grace of God.

Eph 2:1 ¶ And you hath he quickened, who **were dead** in trespasses and sins; Wherein in **time past** ye walked according to the **course of this world**, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in **times past** in the lusts of our flesh, **fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind**; and were by nature the **children of wrath**, even as others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even **when we were dead in sins**, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in

Verse one through three tell each of us the state we were in before coming to know Jesus through rebirth.

The LDS view of life is very different indeed. It maintains that we were born children of God. We are good and worthy and righteous. But the Bible teaches we were born “children of wrath,” operating by our flesh and minds, hence the need for rebirth. Let's read on . . .

heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

(Romans 6:23 The wages of sin is death.)

So WHILE we were spiritually dead in our sins, God, by His mercy and grace, provided us with Jesus.

We did nothing to merit this. We were in sin. And out of His grace He gave us this perfect gift we didn't deserve!

And why did God give us this gift? Because we could not return to Him any other way!

(READ IT AGAIN)

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Now here is where some religions start messing with the basic recipe of what makes Christianity, Christianity!

They take the simple message of God's Grace – meaning God gives us something we don't deserve – salvation - and they add to it, they redefine it, they alter the simplicity of its message in order to fit their doctrines, their religion, their ways.

They add to the ingredients by saying,

Well, we have to do things too!

**We have to be baptized!
We have to have an endowment!
We have to be sealed!
We have to endure to the end!
We have to do this, and this, and this,
and this and THEN you will be saved.**

Hogwash!

**In the Book of Mormon, in second
Nephi 25:23 it reads:**

**“for we know that it is by grace that we
are saved, after all we can do.”**

**This, my friends, is a bad ingredient.
This is not part of God’s recipe.**

**Why? Because it takes salvation by
grace and attempts to make it by grace
and works, by faith and the Law – this
is impossible AND it is against what the
Bible says!**

Listen to Romans chapter 11:6

**“And if by grace, then is it no more of
works: otherwise grace is no more
grace. But if it be of works, then is it no
more grace: otherwise work is no more
work.”**

**To say we are saved by grace and
works is akin to saying that a person is
pregnant and not pregnant, that they
are right and wrong, that they are dead
and alive.**

It is either one or the other, NOT both.

**Grace is grace - a free, unmerited gift
given without our deserving it.**

**Works, or the Law, is the Law. It is
either obeyed or it is not. And if you
have ever broken it, you are guilty and**

	in dire need of God's merciful grace.
--	---------------------------------------

Why isn't GRACE preached in the LDS Church today?

What is the LDS aversion to the straightforward Biblical concepts of grace?

Before we open up the phone lines at 801 973-TV20 (973-8820) let me offer up a few reasons Latter-day Saints ignore teaching or emphasizing God's Grace.

First, it begins with a faulty impression of who God is.

When we worship a God as the ultimate source of power, without origins, uncreated, and omnipresent, we must be saved by His Grace – what could sinful human creations do to appease such a God?

But if the God you worship was once a man, has a body of flesh and bone, and has a wife, then you are dealing with a God who demands works for salvation. It is simple as that.

Second, it's because of their idea of who they are.

Latter-day Saints believe they are God's children from the get go – God's in embryo. This places them in a position of needing to work, to prove themselves, to advance.

To Christians, Man is but a creation. Man is dust who must rely on God completely to return to Him.

Third, it's because they don't comprehend who Jesus is.

There's little need for grace when our brother was Jesus, a spiritual sibling who "set the perfect example" for us to follow.

There is a tremendous need for grace when Jesus was God incarnate, who came to earth and offered up Himself because our offerings are meaningless without Him.

Last of all, Latter-day Saints refrain from preaching grace because Grace just doesn't make for good control of the masses.

A works-based soteriology is much more effective at getting people to work and serve in an organization.

In our fallen world, grace is often taken advantage of by weaker believers. Works, or the Law, goes along way to get people involved, motivated, and doing what a religion wants them to do.

Think about it.

But let me conclude with this thought in defense of Grace as a real and genuine motivator.

(MARRIAGE EXAMPLE) – Fear, Guilt or Love: what is the best motivator?

(PAUL'S WORDS)

1st Corinthian 15:10 *But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*

CONCLUSION

THE LAW and GRACE

The Law demands, grace gives.

The Law says, “do,” grace says “believe.”

The Law exacts, grace bestows.

The Law says “Work,” grace says rest.

The Law threatens, announcing a curse. Grace entreats announcing a blessing.

The Law condemns the best man, grace saves the worst.

The Law says, “do and thou shalt live.” Grace says, “Live (in Christ) and thou shalt do.”

The Law reveals the true character of God. The Law reveals the true weakness of man.

The Law was never meant to save.

You haven't kept the Law.

You aren't keeping the Law.

You are guilty of breaking the Law.

And despite all of your goodness and works, you deserve Hell.

The Law sets forth what Man ought to be, Grace sets forth who God is.

Grace comes because Jesus came, and in our place, lived righteously and died for our crimes.

It is not our work, it is His.

It's not our faith, it is His faithfulness.

It is not our goodness, it's His righteousness.

This is grace.

Poured out on all those who have faith on Him who was faithful.

Our Savior, our Lord, our King, and our God.

END NOTES TO GRACE

The faulty ingredient is legalism. The missing ingredient is Grace.

Grace.

What is Grace?

Why is it the answer to many of the problems in Mormonism today?

Why isn't it talked about and why has it been replaced with Law?

Can Law and Grace abide together?

Well, let's find out.

GRACE

Favor, mercy. Divine grace is the free and undeserved love and favor of God towards man as a sinner, especially as exhibited in the plan of redemption through Jesus Christ, Joh 1:17; 3:16; Ro 3:24-26. It is only by the free grace of God that we embrace the offers of mercy, and appropriate to ourselves the blessings graciously purchased by redeeming blood.

The "GRACE OF GOD," spontaneous, unmerited, self-directed, and almighty, is the source of the whole scheme of redemption, Ro 11:6; 2Ti 1:9. With it are united "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ," who gave himself for sinners; and that of "the Spirit of grace," by whom alone the grace offered by the Father and purchased by the Son is effectually applied. Thus GRACE in man, or all true holiness, 2Pe 3:18, is traced up to the grace of God as its only source; and the gospel of Christ and the work of the spirit - both pure grace-- are its only channels of communication. Hence also all the fruits and blessings of the gospel are termed graces, 2Co 8:7; Php 1:7; not only regeneration, pardon, enlightenment, sanctification, etc., but miraculous, official, and prophetic gifts, the peculiar traits of Christian character, and everlasting salvation, 1Pe 1:13. In Ga 5:4, "grace" means God's plan of salvation by his mercy, not by our works.

Grace

- (1.) Of form or person (Pr 1:9; 3:22; Ps 45:2).
- (2.) Favour, kindness, friendship (Ge 6:8; 18:3; 19:19; 2Ti 1:9).
- (3.) God's forgiving mercy (Ro 11:6; Eph 2:5).
- (4.) The gospel as distinguished from the law (Joh 1:17; Ro 6:14; 1Pe 5:12).
- (5.) Gifts freely bestowed by God; as miracles, prophecy, tongues (Ro 15:15; 1Co 15:10; Eph 3:8).
- (6.) Christian virtues (2Co 8:7; 2Pe 3:18).
- (7.) The glory hereafter to be revealed (1Pe 1:13).

(CHEN) FIRST TIME IT IS USED IN THE BIBLE

Genesis 6:8 But Noah <Noach> **found** <matsa'> **grace** <chen> in the eyes <'ayin> of the LORD <Y@hovah>.

(T@CHINNAH) FIRST TIME USED IN THE BIBLE

Ezra 9:8 And now for a little <m@`at> space <rega`> **grace** <t@chinnah> hath been shewed from the LORD <Y@hovah> our God <'elohiym>, to leave <sha'ar> us a remnant to escape <p@leytah>, and to give <nathan> us a nail <yathed> in his holy <qodesh> place <maqowm>, that our God <'elohiym> may lighten <'owr> our eyes <'ayin>, and give <nathan> us a little <m@`at> reviving <michyah> in our bondage <'abduwth>. {space: Heb. moment} {a nail: or, a pin: that is, a constant and sure abode} Ps 13:3; 34:5; Isa 22:23

(Charis) FIRST TIME USED IN NT

Luke 2:40 And <de> the child <paidion> grew <auxano>, and <kai> waxed strong <krataioo> in spirit <pneuma>, filled <pleroo> with wisdom <sophia>: and <kai> the **grace <charis>** of God <theos> was <en> upon <epi> him <autos>.

KHARIS - Grace

GRACE FROM STRONGS

5485. cariv charis, khar'-ece
Search for 5485 in KJV

from 5463; graciousness (as gratifying), of manner or act (abstract or concrete; literal, figurative or spiritual; especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude):--acceptable, benefit, favour, gift, grace(-ious), joy, liberality, pleasure, thank(-s, -worthy).
See Greek 5463 (chairō)

KHARIO-Glad, Hail, Rejoice, Joy, God's Speed

GLAD, HAIL, REJOICE, JOY, GOD'S SPEED – all from Chairō, derivative of Charis

5463. cairw chairō, khah'-ee-ro
Search for 5463 in KJV

a primary verb; to be "cheer"ful, i.e. calmly happy or well-off; impersonally, especially as salutation (on meeting or parting), be well!--farewell, be glad, God speed, greeting, hail, joy(-fully), rejoice.

THOUGHT:

Only absolutes have the properties to bring about true peace in the human heart and mind. There is no rest or peace in uncertain positions or questionable action. Absolute peace can only exist in absolute positions.

Human nature understands this, seeks for this, yearns for this. This very facts opens everyone up to counterfeits. And counterfeits offer many of the things human beings need to feel secure, safe, and at peace. These counterfeits include:

Drugs and alcohol:

Overeating:

Another person, a spouse, a friend, or our children:

Sports, activities, clubs, or associations.

Religion or a specific philosophy:

Personal Experience:

ONLY ONE CONCRETE:

ONLY ONE ABSOLUTE:

Jesus Christ

Joh 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

Ac 15:11 But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.

Ro 3:24 **Being justified freely by his grace** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Ro 4:4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

Ro 5:2 By whom also we have **access by faith into this grace** wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Ro 5:15 But not as the offence, so also is the **free gift**. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

Ro 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

Ro 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

Ro 5:21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ro 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

Ro 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Ro 6:15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

Ro 11:5 Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the **election of grace.**

Ro 11:6 **And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.**

Ro 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith

Ro 12:6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

1Co 3:10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

1Co 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

2Co 1:12 For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.

2Co 6:1 We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

2Co 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

2Co 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

2Co 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2Co 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen. <<The second [epistle to the Corinthians was written from Philippi, a city of Macedonia, by Titus and Lucas.]>>

Ga 1:3 Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,

Ga 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

Ga 1:15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,

Ga 2:9 And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

Ga 2:21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Ga 5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Ga 6:18 Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. <<To [the Galatians written from Rome.]>>

Eph 1:2 Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Eph 2:5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) {by...: or, by whose grace }

Eph 2:7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Eph 3:2 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:

Eph 3:7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

Eph 3:8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

Eph 4:7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. {to...: or, to edify profitably}

Eph 6:24 Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen. <<To [the Ephesians written from Rome, by Tychicus.]>> {in sincerity: or, with incorruption}

Php 1:2 Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Php 1:7 Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace. {I have...: or, ye have me in your heart} {of my...: or, with me of grace }

Php 4:23 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. <<To [the Philippians written from Rome, by Epaphroditus.]>>

Col 1:2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Col 1:6 Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Col 4:6 Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

Col 4:18 The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember my bonds. Grace be with you. Amen. <<Written from Rome to Colossians by Tychicus and Onesimus.>>

1Th 1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1Th 5:28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen. <<The first [epistle to the Thessalonians was written from Athens.]>>

2Th 1:2 Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2Th 1:12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2Th 2:16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,

2Th 3:18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. <<The second [epistle to the Thessalonians was written from Athens.]>>

1Ti 1:2 Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

1Ti 1:14 And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

1Ti 6:21 Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen. <<The first to Timothy was written from Laodicea, which is the chiefest city of Phrygia Pacatiana.>>

2Ti 1:2 To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

2Ti 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

2Ti 2:1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

2Ti 4:22 The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit. Grace be with you. Amen. <<The second [epistle unto Timotheus, ordained the first bishop of the church of the Ephesians, was written from Rome, when Paul was brought before Nero the second time.]>>

Tit 1:4 To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Tit 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, {hath...: or, to all men, hath appeared}

Tit 3:7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Tit 3:15 All that are with me salute thee. Greet them that love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen. <<It was written to Titus, ordained the first bishop of the church of the Cretians, from Nicopolis of Macedonia.>>

Phm 1:3 Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Phm 1:25 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. <<Written from Rome to Philemon, by Onesimus a servant.>>

Heb 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. {for the: or, by the}

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Heb 10:29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

Heb 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; {fail...; or, fall from}

Heb 12:28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: {let...: or, let us hold fast}

Heb 13:9 Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

Heb 13:25 Grace be with you all. Amen. <<Written to the Hebrews from Italy, by Timothy.>>

Jas 1:11 For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.

Jas 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

1Pe 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

1Pe 1:10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

1Pe 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; {to the end: Gr. perfectly}

1Pe 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

1Pe 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1Pe 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

1Pe 5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

1Pe 5:12 By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand.

2Pe 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

2Pe 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

2Jo 1:3 Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love. {be: Gr. shall be}

Jude 1:4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Re 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

Re 22:21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

FAQ II

(August 8, 2006)

- To Write Us:

Heart of the Matter

314 South Redwood Road Suite 200
Salt Lake City, Utah 84104

Many of you fine and faithful viewers write or call and ask how you can help our ministry.

- Many want to contribute financially or help out in some other way.
- . . . kindly sent me books, poems, and even shirts and dinner invitations. You are all so kind.
We want to thank you for your support and for your willingness to help us continue forward.
- But I also want to take a moment and ask for your help in two specific ways.
 - **First, we need your prayers.** Please petition the Lord to help our show reach into the hearts of those prepared to hear.
 - That I will act according to His will and not my own.
 - That Mormonism will reform doctrinally.
 - **Second, I ask you to share the show** with all of your friends and acquaintances, whether in Utah and Idaho or not.
 - If out of the area, email them and give them our website address. Tell them to view the shows online through streaming video or by listening to our podcasts.
 - Heart of the Matter can be seen anywhere in the world via the internet. We ask you to share the show because the more who watch, the more who will come to know the Lord.
 - We thank you in advance for helping us in this way.

PRAYER

Every month we receive hundreds of calls, emails, and letters loaded with questions and some frank accusations.

Some are from people genuinely seeking to know the Lord.

Some are from people genuinely seeking to kill me in the name of the Lord.

But because we put an emphasis on our live calls here on the show, I often set these questions aside and never get around to answering them.

So tonight is “catch up on your questions” night.

348 emails this past week and compiled them (in order of those asked most frequently) and will try and answer them to the best of my ability. If I miss yours, please re-email us and we’ll try and get it read.

Okay, here goes (starting with the MOST asked questions in order of frequency):

Dear Shawn,

“What was it (really) that caused you to leave the Church? Why don’t you just come back and do what you know you should?”

- 1) Book spells it all out.
- 2) Impossible to go back when the Lord has pulled me out.
- 3) Church could not/did not lead me to a regenerative relationship with Jesus.
- 4) Could not overcome my sin nature as a Latter-day Saint – what I mean I could not legitimately overcome my natural self.

“What do you hope to accomplish with this show, book, and site?”

- 1) Help LDS understand the reality and need for personal genuine rebirth.
- 2) Help LDS embrace the Bible as God’s inerrant word – to trust it, to use it, to place it first in their scriptural lives.

“You say you want to get Mormonism to understand the Bible and to focus on being born-again, but you really want to destroy the Church don’t you!

- 1) Yes. I do. But only to the extent that it fails to bring people to a regenerative relationship with Jesus and that it dismisses the Bible as unreliable. Change these things and we’ll talk about the rest later.

“How does a person go about being born-again? What is the process? Does it happen once or over and over again? Doesn’t take a lifetime? What do I need to do to experience this?”

A pregnant woman gives birth to a child not over a lifetime, but immediately. It takes the child a lifetime to learn and grow. After the child dies, it will be resurrected.

- 1) Justification - Believe in your heart and confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord.
- may take time to change, but if genuine, salvation is genuine immediately.
- 2) Sanctification – life-long battle
- 3) Resurrection - later

“How could you believe in the Church and serve a mission and accept the Book of Mormon and then turn from it?”

- 1) The Book of Mormon is a piece of 19th century fiction produced by Joseph Smith. You can trust it if you want. I’ll take the Bible hands down and no other thing.
- 2) Taught to believe it NOT taught to be born-again or to really know the Bible.
- 3) Came to know the Lord by being born-again AND understanding His Word

“Once you are saved are you always saved?”

Yes. If you abide in Christ. Calvinist/Armenism. Matters is the heart. If a person states, “I’m saved, and I do what I want, I preach conditional salvation. If a person is struggling with believing they are saved, but whose heart is in the right place, I preach secured salvation. The Bible teaches both.

“Do you believe in a literal hell?”

Yes. Jesus taught it. I trust it is there. What gets you there? Not having faith in Jesus. Period. Sin does not put you in hell. Your sins were paid for 2000 years ago. It is not believing in Jesus Christ that puts you in hell, it’s not having faith in Him.

Most people like to hold onto the idea that it is sin that keeps them from God. If Jesus hadn’t been here yet this would be true. But He was here. He paid the price. Our faith in Him saves us because He paid for the sin.

And here's the kicker: When we believe in Him, we will, in time, overcome sin by His power and might.

NUMBER ONE MOST COMMON ACCUSATION

"You have no idea of what you are talking about. You are an idiot. Apparently you never listened when you were a member. WE ARE CHRISTIAN. We believe in Jesus Christ. His name is in the name of our church! We end our prayers and talks in His name. Duh. Why don't you give up trying to hurt the kingdom of God on earth and just crawl back under the rock you came out from."

I get a lot of emails and letters (and calls) telling me I have "no idea what I am talking about." This is really intriguing to me. Let's get to the heart of the matter right now, okay.

First, if I crawl back under the rock I came out from I would be back under the LDS doctrines, which are a burden.

Second, I've been LDS since birth.

- mission, assistant to the president – prayed, fasted, and was strictly obedient.
- Married in LA Temple – went every week – week!
- taught early morning seminary three years
- taught innumerable Sunday school, priesthood, YM
- in a Bishopric
- Stake High Council 4 years
- seventeen years where all I did was read, brothers and sisters.
- Then I attended a School of Ministry every day for three hours for two years!
- finally, I wrote a book that has generally gone uncontested by those in the know.

Not being proud. I am still a failure. I am still a big fat pig. I still get angry when I have no right.

But when it comes to Mormonism, Mormon doctrine, I know what I am talking about. And your not liking it is irrelevant because it is you who is uninformed about the very religion you claim is "the only true church on the face of the earth!"

Think about this for a minute. WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE THE TANNERS HAVE SPENT THEIR LIVES DISSEMINATING INFORMATION ABOUT THE MORMONS? Why?

Why does much of Christianity call Mormonism the c-word?

Why do you think the church is picked on? You've been taught you are picked on because you "have the truth" or because "the devil hates the Church." But I've got news for you:

You are picked on because your church sends missionaries out door to door (just like the Jehovah's Witnesses) who in a spic and span presentation claim they are Christian, but in reality you history, doctrines, practices and methods are so freaking out there that they are frankly a danger to people wanting to have the peaceful, God-given assurance of salvation.

I humbly suggest that if you don't think I know what I'm talking about that it is YOU who doesn't know what you believe!

"Why are you so quick to jump down peoples throats on certain things – especially if the person is LDS and especially if they don't agree with you."

- Travel by air quite a bit.
- Every week SLC watch 20 to 30 LDS missionaries departing into the world.
- Often invited to sit in on their discussions with investigators back home. I listen to what they teach and tell people. It is not the truth nor is it fair.
- When people call the show, I am not going to let them try and paint a picture of Mormonism that is incomplete, misleading, or untrue – like the missionaries do.
- GOING TO FIGHT WITH EVERYTHING TO CUT IT OFF AT THE SOURCE AND SPEAK THE TRUTH.
- This is NOT about my opinion verses the LDS.
- It is about LDS doctrine verses the Word of God.
- AGAIN: DOCTRINE VERSES THE WORD
- Not here to make nice-nice. Here to examine the issues openly.

"Are you still a Mormon? Why the title Born-Again Mormon? If a person is born-again they cannot be a Mormon!"

From our critical Christian friends who just need to grow up. Again, I was born again and I remained LDS . . . (explain)

(I am no longer LDS now).

"What about priesthood authority? At least the Church can lay claim to the right to act in God's name. You have no authority!"

What about your family? Are they still LDS? How do you live together?

All of my family was LDS when I left. In the past two years, all have become Christians. None of them have had their names removed and my wife still participates in the LDS primary with her mother.

When they saw me change for the better, they wanted what I had.

What is a good Church I can go to in the (blank) area?

Our website at www.bornagainmormon.com has a list of recommended churches in your area.

Explain the Trinity.

When people begin to see Mormon doctrine for what it is, there are usually four areas they have trouble reconciling in their heads and hearts.

The first is the LDS doctrine of a pre-existence.
The second is the biblical teaching of a literal hell.
And the third is the unbiblical concept of eternal families.
And the forth is the trinity.

I cannot explain the trinity, because I do not know God fully.
I can explain that I am monotheistic and that I reject polytheism.
I can explain that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are God.
I can show you are diagram that might help illustrate the Trinity:
(Diagram)
And I can say this: The preconceived, mind-bending teachings you have had about a pre-existence, no hell, the trinity, and eternal families will fade into an absurd oblivion as you are reborn and as you read and study the Word with the new eyes God gives you.

“Why don’t you ever go to the Bible and read scriptures to defend your positions with verses?”

A couple of reasons.

First I understand things in terms of large concepts after having taken the components of it into consideration. This is how the Lord has created me.

When I read, my brain – for some reason – takes everything in, digests it, and formats it into a file of truth or a file of error. I can tell if something “fits” one paradigm or not.

(Example of book – new Christian but it is consistent with what Bible teachers support. Why? I understand things conceptually.)

Another reason I don’t use a specific verse strategy is because by pulling out single verses in an audience that doesn’t understand the context, I am not doing the Word justice. And it’s almost a waste of time.

And finally, single verse quotes lead to bashing, which I don’t want to do.

My purpose and calling is to share the Word – that’s it.

NOT to convert.

NOT to win a bash.

NOT to prove I know more and can out joust a caller.

It is to share God’s truth relative to the doctrines of Mormonism. PERIOD!

“What do you think of the Law of Tithing?”

Breaking my rule not to use specific verses, Galatians 2:19 says : “For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.”

The New Testament only speaks of giving hilariously, cheerfully, from the heart. Tithing is an O.T. concept. It is legalistic and binds the hearts of those who attempt to live under it.

2nd Corinthians 9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

2Co 9:7 Every man <hekastos> according as <kathos> he purposeth <proaireomai> in his heart <kardia>, so let him give; not <me> grudgingly <ek> <lupe>, or <e> of <ek> necessity <anagke>: for <gar> God <theos> **loveth <agapao> a cheerful <hilaros>** giver <dotes>.

Tithing places everyone back under the law. Christians are not under the law. They have liberty in Christ. And usually Christians give more than the required 10% when they truly abide in Christ. Truly, they give it all.

“Do you believe in prophets today? Why or why not?”

Act 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

Mt 21:33 ¶ Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country: And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son.

OT = Prophet recorded 200 times

NT= Prophet recorded 17

“Do I have to go to church to be saved?”

No. But you'll want to go once you are.

“What role do works play in Christianity?”

People know our faith by our works. Works are vital to any and every committed Christian.

“I know Joseph Smith was a true and living prophet.”

How can you know something unless you examine it? I can say I know that the moon is really really really made of swiss cheese but what are the facts?

What do the facts say about the moon and its make-up?

There is a lot of information out and about Joseph Smith and the doctrines he created.

Before you tell me you know he was a true prophet, put things in proper spiritual order:

Go to the Lord and ask to be spiritually born-again.

Study the Bible through and through for a few years.

Read all the trustworthy information you can about Joseph Smith.

Then read all the doctrinal information he created.

Compare it with the Word of God.

Then you tell me you know he was a true prophet.

“Are people saved by faith, grace, God, Jesus, works, belief or a combination of these?”

Christians are saved by the blood of Jesus. They are saved by God’s Grace by their faith in His shed blood for sins.

“Why do you say Mormons are sinful people?”

All people are sinful. You are only not a sinner if you have not sinned. Inward sins are possibly of greater strength than apparent.

“Is baptism necessary for salvation?”

No.

“Do you obey the Sabbath-day?”

I can’t because I am not Jewish. (Expound)

“What Church do you go to now that you left the Church?”

All over. I spy on the LDS church sometimes, attend Calvary at times, and others.

“Do you ever have doubts about having left the Church?”

Yes. But understand those doubts are culturally tied. I miss the ward family environment. It’s tough to find that kind of commraderie in a lot of Christian churches. I also miss many of my friends and family.

I’ve a younger brother who I sort of mentored up through his young life. Nothing much today.

Many many friends abandoned me completely.

But doctrinally, I don’t miss or question anything I’ve done. I have a relationship with Jesus that is more rewarding in an hour than 40 years as a LDS.

Doctrinally, it was like being released from prison and winning the lottery all on the same day.

Do you have beliefs left over from Mormonism that are not part of Christianity?

I actually enjoy many of the legalistic approaches the church takes when it comes to living. I don’t agree with them when it comes to salvation and find

them tools to force people into happiness models but I don't mind the idea of abstaining from tobacco, alcohol, or coffee. I mean, it makes some good sense.

“Do you drink alcohol? What do you think of the Word of Wisdom? Do you think it was inspired?”

I do not drink but have nothing against it even though most Christians do. I think drinking causes a lot of pain and misery in today's world.

“Why do you dress and look the way you do with your hair and all?”

I am a liberal artist-type at heart. I am free-wheeling and a tad bit of a rebel. I have been since birth. The Lord uses me as I am, and every now and again gets me to straighten up a bit – in my heart. He created me and likes the combination of gifts and opinions He's formed me with. So I just need to worry about my standing with Him and not anything else. My “style” or lack thereof is what I am comfortable in.

“How do get through to my LDS friend or family member?”

Love them as Jesus would love them, set an example of someone who rejoices in Jesus. Be patient. Pray. Bless them in Jesus name.

Do you see R-rated movies?

I see anything that I am interested in seeing and I am interested in seeing good films that have value. I can't imagine leaving this earth in this day and age not having seen films like Braveheart, Schindler's List, The Passion of the Christ, or other great R rated films.

Then again, I can't imagine spending a single minute in movies that do nothing for the mind like, The Fast and the Furious, or You Got Served, or Scary Movie 3.

Who sings on at the start of the show? What are the names of the songs?

Johnny Cash sings both songs. The open is with U2 and is called The Wanderer and the last is a remake of a Soundgarden song called, Rusty Cage.

How much money do you make doing the show?

I make no money doing the show. I sleep in an office building the nights I am here and I am picked up by friends at the airport.

My airfare is picked-up by a Church I attend in California.

We give 2/3rds of our books away.

I pay out of pocket to do the show.

What is your profession?

I was a stockbroker for 12 or so years. I also designed a clothing line in Sri Lanka for a few years and also failed in a start-up internet business. I've always been a writer (or sorts) and never cared deeply about a profession but have instead spent most of my life trying to acquire knowledge, insight, and information about religion, philosophy, and some literature.

Did you ever get a patriarchal blessing? What do you think of them?

I did get a patriarchal blessing at 17 years of age. (Opinion)

If you could change the Church today, what would you change? OR "In your opinion, what is missing in Mormonism today?"

If the LDS church isn't true, what Church is?

No Church is true – only God is true. We rely on Him and Him alone and gather together in His name doing the best we can.

GOD

(August 15, 2006)

This is perhaps the most important show I think we have ever had, and until we speak of it again, it will be the most important show we will ever have.

I really hope that if you are not a believer – meaning you are not born-again - that you will just

- put everything aside right now.
- forget your feelings or judgments about me.
- forget what religion you were brought up in and just . . . just listen . . . and pray for insight.

There seems to be three general conditions people will be in when they stand before God someday. I take these attitudes from others in the Word who have stood before God in the past.

**First there are those who will be rebellious and proud.
Those who are absolutely terrified.
And those who are filled with peace, warmth and joy.**

Now ask yourself, “which condition will I be in?” (beat)

In that day, or at that time, I promise you that . . .

- . . . the Church you have attended will not matter.
- . . . your earthly successes and accomplishments will not matter.
- . . . your family name, wealth, fame or intellect will not matter.

**It won't matter if you graduated from high school or college.
It won't matter if you have never smoked a cigarette or if you have.
And get this – the amount or kind of good deeds you do won't matter either when it comes to being accepted by God.**

But one thing I can assure you, my friends, is you will either stand before God rebellious, full of joy, or absolutely terrified. (beat)

**I'd like for you to imagine for a moment that you are going to die tonight.
That you are going to stand before God in the next hour or two.**

What do you expect to experience or see?

What Christians and Latter-day Saints expect to see are two different things.

Compared to Christianity, Latter-day Saints believe several unique things about God and their at-birth relationship to Him.

- First, Mormons believe God refers to God the Father. Mormons view God as a literally father from even before birth.
- They believe he has a body of flesh and bone, as tangible as Man's, but glorified and perfected.

(WHY do they accept such a concept which flies in the face of all Judaism, all Christianity, and all Islam? *Because Joseph Smith told them so.*)

(Think about this. For over thousands of years, one of the main points that differentiated Jews from the rest of the nomadic and often vile tribes was their rejection of polytheism and their embracing One God only. But in 1820, a single boy changed all that for millions of people.

- Mormons believe in an eternal regression of God's.
- **Mormons believe God has a wife (or wives, depending on who you might be reading).**
- Mormons don't believe God can create matter and they don't believe He can destroy matter.
- **Mormons believe that God was once a man.**

And while these descriptions are contrary to the Bible and its descriptions of God, I've yet to mention the most anti-Christian doctrine Mormonism maintains regarding God:

- AS I said, to Latter-day Saints, God is their literal Father from birth.
- **In their theology, God and a Heavenly Mother procreated each of us as spirit children before we came to earth. To LDS, all things were spiritually created first and materially created second.**

(By the way, this view is in conflict with **1st Corinthians 15:46** "Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.")

- **As God's spirit children, LDS believe they have a right to Him and His throne.**
 - that all men are good, and holy, and pure as His Children.
 - no intercession is needed between an infant and God, between a child under 8 and God, between any person and God until they have sinned.
- **Latter-day Saints sing "I am a child of God, and He has sent me here, has given me an earthy home, with parents kind and dear . . . teach me all that I must DO to live with Him someday."**
- Mormons speak of "Heavenly Father" as if they were speaking of a kindly wise old Grandfather just waiting for them to call.
- **Mormons teach that He is a God who is so loving that He would never send any of His children to the Biblically taught place of hell but instead has three kingdoms of joy and light waiting for everyone who has ever come to earth.**

- They believe He is a God that is limited by a corporeal body. (NOT Omnipresent) (lungs in space? Intestines)
- **They believe that He is a God who is limited in ability. (NOT Omnipotent)**
- In the end the LDS concept of God is that He is a very, very, very, very accomplished and progressive family man.

Tragically, Latter-day Saints believe that they have the right, THE RIGHT! to call Him Abba, their literal father from birth and throughout life.

I firmly believe that most by-the-book LDS are going to be TERRIFIED when they stand before God. Let me explain why.

When we read the Bible contextually and exegetically AND WITH SPIRITUALLY REGENERATED EYES, it describes a VERY different God.

One way that helps me get my mind somewhat around the power, majesty and brilliance of God is when I try and grasp His creations great and small.

Let's first talk about the expanse of space in general.

Did you know that . . .

- **it is believed that the universe expands in all directions a million miles per second.**
- that each galaxy contains millions of stars?
- **the universe contains over a 100 million galaxies – possibly billions**
- the closest star to us visible to the human eye is Alpha Centauri?
- **Now when we calculating distances to stars normal units of measurements won't work so we speak in terms of light years.**
- Light travels 300,000 kilometers per second – or it will travel around the world seven times in one second. That's fast.
- **If we were to travel at the speed of light out to Alpha Centauri we would pass the moon in a second and a half, we would pass the sun in eight and a half minutes but we would have to travel 4 and one half light years to reach the closest visible star!**
- What about the farthest visible star in the Andromeda Galaxy? It is 1.5 million light years away! And our telescopes catch stars 6,500 million light years away!

And God was once a man? God has a body? God can't do certain things?

Did you know that . . .

- **the sun is so large you could fit over a million earths into it, but it is really quite small compared to other stars.**
- there are stars so big you could fit 500 million suns into them if they were hollow!
- **The star Betelgeuse, which is 520 light years away from earth is one of the brightest stars in the Orion belt. Betelgeuse is so big that if hollowed out, you could put the sun at the center and the earth could orbit around the sun inside of it! And it spins at like 2000 miles per second in space.**

What holds these immense fixtures in place? Who creates them and from what?

What about little old earth?

- the thing travels through space at 67,000 miles per hour!

Think about the immensity of space and then think about a single ant – its magnificence, its structure, its abilities.

Then think about the cells that make up the ant. And the components of each cell. And the properties that make up those components.

What about the intense components of animals? Man?

The human eye has

What created this?

Some gloried man or an incomprehensible God of incomprehensible wonder?

Now what does the Bible say about the Christian God?

IT SAYS HE'S A SPIRIT

Jesus said in **John 4:24** "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

Joseph said in one of his many conflicting recitations of his first vision that God had a body of flesh and bones – who are you gonna believe, Jesus or Joseph?

THE WORD SAYS GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE!

Deuteronomy 4:24 "For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God."

Hebrews 12:28 "for our God is a consuming fire."

THE WORD SAYS THAT GOD IS NOT A MAN!

Numbers 23:19 “God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent.”

Now Joseph said God was once a man and has a man’s body.
And the Word says God is everything BUT a man!
What are you going to believe?

Come on, my brothers and sisters!
Think about it!

THE WORD SAYS THAT GOD CAN DO ANYTHING!

Matthew 19:26 “with God all things are possible.”

Just last week a very kind man called and stated on the air that God cannot create something out of nothing. And that He cannot destroy matter! This is a fundamental LDS belief.

But Jesus said with God “ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.”
The Word says He is the first and the last, the beginning and the end, the creator of all things. ALL.

What are you going to believe? That He is limited or that He is EVERYTHING? (beat)

Do you realize the absolute and utter decimation people are going to have when they take that last breath and think you’re going to be greeted by some kindly old Father-figure on a throne who will wink at those who trifled with His Word?

Holy cripes!

THE BIBLE SAYS GOD IS TERRIBLE AND TERRIFYING

Listen to the Prophet Isaiah. He was standing by the altar of the temple looking into the holy of Holies when he caught a vision of God:

“Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.”

Heb 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Mormonism, in absolute opposition to the Biblical stance, makes it sound as if God is just an “all good and loving parent” working with each of His children down here on just being the best that they can be. And then we die and get a kingdom!”

Doesn't sound congruent with Hebrews 10 does it?

THE SCRIPTURES SAY NO MAN HAS EVER SEEN GOD!

1st John 4:12 “No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwells in us, and His love is perfected in us.”

Joseph said he saw Him plain as day.
What are you gonna believe? (beat)

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the Bible says you are NOT – **ARE NOT!** – this God's child until you have been born-again.

John 1:12 “But as many as received Him, He gave to them authority *to become the children of God*, to those who believe on His name, who were born, not of bloods, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but were born of God.”

Romans 8:15 “For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.”

Galatians 3:25 (Speaking to believers) “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.”

1st John 3:1 “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we *should be called* the sons of God!” (not, “that we are all called” but that we “should be called!”)

Galatians 4:5 “To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.”

Ephesians 1:5 “Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.”

Latter-day Saints, you are NOT automatically God's child. READ THE WORD.

You must be born-again (as Jesus said) and adopted by Holy God BEFORE you can call Him Father, Abba, or anything else that's endearing.

You have no right to the “Consuming Fire” because right comes by regeneration through faith which results in adoption which then grants you a relationship with Him.

There is no other way.

There are those who will, in the face of God Almighty, refuse to bend.

Satan was one such creation. Pride caused this creation to attempt to compete with God and refuse to bow to His demands.

I don't think I am talking to too many people who are like this, but if I am, I pray that you will just break.

Then there are those who, because of their faith in Jesus, have been adopted into the kingdom by God's grace and when they take that last breath they will be warmly welcomed home to boldly go before the throne of God by virtue of the shed blood of Jesus and call Him Papa, Abba, Father.

God sees all of His creations through the blood of Jesus. You are either covered or your not. When covered, you welcomed into the presence of this amazing consuming fire.

You relationship with His Son is what matters when you stand before God. Not some man made fantasy that you are because He created you His child by right.

Such an attitude will leaves some who will frankly be terrified out of their minds when they meet God.

And I am afraid for you because even though He is truly perfect love and mercy, He will be to you wrath.

I am fearful for those who will fall into the hands of the Holy, living God.

Now this is not a very popular message in this day and age. People like to portray God as all kind and all loving because He is easiest to live with this way.

Even when you are his child He can beat you up a bit.

No, people today want to be “positive,” they want political correctness. They want easy theology.

But the Bible does not mince words or water its message down. Heaven is heaven, hell is hell, and rebirth through faith in Jesus is the difference between the two.

How do I know this?

Let me conclude with two biblical examples.

Remember Uzzah? (Explain)

2nd Samuel 6:6 And when they came to Nachon's threshing-floor, Uzzah reached out to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen stumbled. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah. And God struck him there for the error. And he died there by the ark of God.

Perhaps most importantly, let's look at Jesus.

In the Garden of Gethsemene, Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, knew what was coming His way. He sensed what he was about to do.

(Explain) Let's read:

(Mt 26:36-39)

Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

In essence, He asked His Father, "Do I have to do this?" (beat)

"I mean, can you figure out anything else can't you? Maybe slaughter a million herds of sheep or obliterate a galaxy in my name? I mean, Father, can I get out of this?"

Now what did the Holy Father say in reply to His only Son? (beat)

He said, "No . . . you can't get out of it. You must do it."

He said, "You've got to do it. It is my will. There is no other way."

And what did this mean?

It meant that God's wouldn't spare His own Son for our sins, for our failures, for our sicknesses, and angers, and lusts, and greed and depravity. He wouldn't spare Him for your pride.

It meant – now listen to this – it meant that God would pour His wrath out upon Jesus.

The Jews didn't kill Jesus. The Romans didn't kill and torture Jesus. The cross didn't cause Him to weep and cry out.

God did. (beat) His wrath. (beat)

He beat Him with stripes, he had Him crucified, and He turned His back on Him! WHY?

For our sin. (beat) So we could become His Son's and daughters by adoption through faith.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son . . .!"

I gotta tell you, brothers and sister, if this holy, perfect, consuming fire would pour out His wrath on His own Son for us, out of Love, watch out if you think you're gonna get by without truly knowing and worshipping Him in this life.

Watch out if you think you can arrogantly have your cake and eat it too.

Watch out if you think this friendly Papa God is gonna accept you by ANY other means than your rebirth through in His Son.

(beat)

There are people who are going to stand before God rebellious and proud. They are going to hell and I don't think they really care.

There are people who are going to be absolutely terrified when they stand before God. They have eyes and ears, but they refuse to see and hear.

And there are people who are going to enter heaven and escape hell because they were born-again and adopted into God's family.

You decide how you want to stand before God and what you are going to believe about Him.

GOD

-Appearances of

- To Adam
Ge 3:8-21
- To Abraham
Ge 18:2-33

- To Jacob, at Beth-el
Ge 35:7,9
- To Moses, in the flaming bush
Ex 3:2
- To Moses, at Sinai
Ex 19:16-24; 24:10
- To Moses and Joshua
De 31:14,15
- To Israel
Jg 2:1-5
- To Gideon
Jg 6:11-24
- To Solomon
1Ki 3:5; 9:2; 11:9; 2Ch 1:7-12; 7:12-22
- To Isaiah
Isa 6:1-5
- To Ezekiel
Eze 1:26-28

-Name of

- Proclaimed
Ex 34:5,14
- See
Ex 6:3; 15:3; Ps 83:18

-To be revered

Ex 20:7; De 5:11; 28:58; Ps 111:9; Mic 4:5; 1Ti 6:1

-Praised

Ps 34:3; 72:17

-Not to be profaned

Ex 20:7; Le 18:21; 19:12; 20:3; 21:6; 22:2,32; De 5:11; Ps 139:20; Pr 30:9; Isa 52:5; Ro 2:24; Re 16:9

-Profaned

Ps 139:20; Mt 26:74

-See BLASPHEMY

BLASPHEMY

-See PERJURY

PERJURY

-Repentance attributed to

Ge 6:6,7; Ex 32:14; Jg 2:18; 1Sa 15:35; 2Sa 24:16; 1Ch 21:15; Ps 106:45; Jer 26:19; Am 7:3; Jon 3:10

-For other anthropomorphic scriptures

•SEE ANTHROPOMORPHISMS

ANTHROPOMORPHISMS

•Rejected

•By Israel

1Sa 8:7,8; Isa 65:12; 66:4

•Saul

1Sa 15:26

-See JESUS, REJECTED

JESUS, THE CHRIST

-Comforter

Job 35:10

-See AFFLICTION, CONSOLATION IN

AFFLICTIONS AND ADVERSITIES

-See HOLY SPIRIT

HOLY SPIRIT

-Covenant keeping

•See COVENANT

COVENANT

-Anger of

- See ANGER OF GOD
ANGER

-Attributes of

- See each in alphabetical order below
- Condescension of

- See CONDESCENSION
CONDESCENSION OF GOD

-UNCLASSIFIED SCRIPTURES RELATING TO

Job 5:8-20; 9:2-35; 10:2-18; 12:7-20; 26:7-14; 33:12-30; 34:10-30; 37:1-24; 38:1-41; 39:1-30; 40:1-24; 41:1-34; 42:1-6; Ps 8:3-6; 97:6; 104:1-32; 107:23-26; 119:90,91; 135:6,7; 147:15-18; 148:3-6; Ec 3:14,15; Isa 2:19; 13:13; 29:6; 48:13; 50:2,3; 64:3; Jer 5:24; 10:2,13; 31:35-37; 33:20,21,25,26; 51:15; Da 2:21; Am 5:8; Na 1:3-6; Ro 1:19,20

-ACCESS TO

De 4:7; Ps 24:3,4; 27:4; 43:2; 65:4; 145:18,19; Isa 55:3; Mt 6:6; Joh 10:7,9; 14:6; Ac 14:27; Ro 5:2; Eph 2:13,18; 3:12; Col 1:21,22; Heb 4:16; 7:19,25; 10:19,22; 11:6; Jas 4:8; 1Pe 1:17; 3:18; 1Jo 4:16

- See PENITENTS
PENITENT

- See REPENTANCE
REPENTANCE

- See SEEKERS
SEEKERS

-COMPASSION OF

- See GOD, LONGSUFFERING OF, below

- See GOD, MERCY OF, below

-CREATOR

Ge 1:1-28,31; 2:1-25; 5:1,2; 9:6; Ex 20:11; 1Sa 2:8; 2Ki 19:15; 1Ch 16:26; Ne 9:6; Job 9:8,9; 10:3,8; 12:7-9; 26:7-13; 28:23-26; 37:16,18; 38:4-38; Ps 8:3; 19:1,4; 24:1,2; 33:6,7,9; 65:6; 74:16,17; 78:69; 89:11,12,47; 90:2; 95:4,5; 96:5; 102:25; 103:22; 104:2,3,5,6,24,30,31; 119:90,91; 121:2; 124:8; 136:5-9; 146:5,6; 148:5,6; Pr 3:19; 8:26-29; 16:4; 22:2; 26:10; 30:4; Ec 3:11; 7:29; 11:5; Isa 17:7; 37:16; 40:12,26,28; 42:5; 44:24; 45:7,12,18; 48:13; 51:13,16; 66:2; Jer 5:22; 10:12,13,16; 27:5; 31:35; 32:17; 33:2; 51:15,16,19; Am 4:13; 5:8; 9:6; Jon 1:9; Zec 12:1; Mr 10:6; 13:19; Ac 4:24; 7:50;

14:15; 17:24-26; Ro 1:20; 11:36; 1Co 8:6; 11:12; 2Co 4:6; 5:5,18; Eph 3:9; 1Ti 6:13; Heb 1:1,2; 2:10; 3:4; 11:3; Re 4:11; 10:6; 14:7

-CREATOR OF MAN

Ge 1:26,27; 2:7; 5:1,2; 9:6; Ex 4:11; Nu 16:22; 27:16; De 4:32; 32:6,15,18; Job 10:8,9,11,12; 12:10; 27:3; 31:15; 33:4; 34:19; 38:36; Ps 33:15; 86:9; 94:9; 95:6; 100:3; 119:73; 139:13; 149:2; Pr 16:4; 20:12; 22:2; Ec 11:5; 12:1; Isa 42:5; 43:1,7,15; 44:2,24; 45:12,18; 51:13; 64:8; Jer 27:5; Da 5:23; Zec 12:1; Mal 2:10; Ac 17:24-26,28,29; 1Co 12:18,24,25; 15:38; Heb 12:9; 1Pe 4:19

•See LIFE FROM GOD
LIFE

•See MAN
MAN

-ETERNITY OF

Ge 21:33; Ex 3:15; 15:18; De 32:40; 33:27; 1Ch 16:36; 29:10; Ne 9:5; Job 36:26; Ps 9:7; 33:11; 41:13; 55:19; 68:33; 90:1,2,4; 92:8; 93:2; 102:12,24-27; 104:31; 111:3; 135:13; 145:13; 146:10; Pr 8:23-25; Isa 26:4; 40:28; 41:4; 43:13; 44:6; 46:4; 48:12; 57:15; 63:16; Jer 10:10; 17:12; La 5:19; Da 4:3,34; Mic 5:2; Hab 1:12; 3:6; Ro 1:20; 16:26; Eph 3:21; 1Ti 1:17; 6:15,16; Heb 1:8; 9:14; 2Pe 3:8; 1Jo 2:13; Re 1:4,6; 4:8-10; 5:14; 10:6; 11:17; 15:7; 16:5

•See GOD, SELF-EXISTENT

-FAITHFULNESS OF

Ge 6:18; 9:15,16; 21:1; 24:27; 28:15; 32:10; Ex 2:24; 6:4,5; 12:41; 34:6; Le 26:44,45; De 4:31; 7:8,9; 9:5; 31:6; 32:4; Jos 21:45; 23:14; Jg 2:1; 1Sa 12:22; 2Sa 7:14,15,28; 22:31; 23:5; 1Ki 8:15,20,23,24,56; 2Ki 8:19; 13:23; 1Ch 17:27; 28:20; 2Ch 6:4-15; 21:7; Ezr 9:9; Ne 1:5; 9:7,8,32; Ps 9:10; 18:30; 19:9; 25:10; 31:5; 33:4; 36:5; 37:28; 40:10; 89:1,2,5,8,14,24,28,33,34; 92:1,2,14,15; 94:14; 98:3; 100:5; 103:17; 105:8,42; 111:5,7-9; 117:2; 119:65,89,90; 121:3,4; 132:11; 138:2; 146:6; Isa 11:5; 25:1; 42:16; 44:21; 49:7,16; 51:6,8; 54:9,10; 65:16; Jer 29:10; 31:36,37; 32:40; 33:14,20,21,25,26; 51:5; La 3:23; Eze 16:60,62; Da 9:4; Ho 2:19,20; Mic 7:20; Hag 2:5; Zec 9:11; Mt 24:34,35; Lu 1:54,55,68-70,72,73; Joh 8:26; Ac 13:32,33; Ro 3:3,4; 11:1,2,29; 15:8; 1Co 1:9; 10:13; 2Co 1:20; 1Th 5:24; 2Ti 2:13; Tit 1:2; Heb 6:10,13-19; 10:22,23,37; 1Pe 4:19; 2Pe 3:9; 1Jo 1:9; Re 6:10; 15:3

-FATHERHOOD OF

Ex 4:22; De 14:1; 32:5,6; 2Sa 7:14; 1Ch 28:6; 29:10; Ps 68:5; 89:26; Isa 1:2; 8:18; 9:6; 63:16; 64:8; Jer 3:19; Ho 1:10; 11:1; Mt 3:17; 5:45; 6:4,6,8,9; 7:11; 10:20,29,32,33; 11:25-27; 12:50; 13:43; 15:13; 16:17,27; 18:10,14,19; 20:23; 26:29,39,42; Mr 8:38; 11:25,26; 13:32; Lu 2:49; 10:21,22; 11:2,13; 22:29; 23:46; 24:49; Joh 1:14,18; 2:16; 4:21,23; 5:17-23,36,37,43; 6:27,32,44-46; 8:19,27,38,41,42,49; 10:15,29,30,32,33,36-38; 12:26-28,50; 13:3; 14:2,6-13,16,20,21,23,24,26,31; 15:8-10,16,23,24,26;

16:3,10,15,23,25-28; 17:1,5,11,21,24; 20:17,21; Ac 1:4; 2:33; Ro 1:3,7; 8:15; 1Co 1:3; 8:6; 15:24; 2Co 1:3; 6:18; Ga 1:1,3,4; 4:4-7; Eph 1:2,3,17; 2:18; 3:14; 4:6; 5:20; 6:23; Php 1:2; Col 1:2,3,12; 2:2; 3:17; 1Th 1:1,3; 3:11,13; 2Th 1:1,2; 2:16; Tit 1:4; Heb 1:5,6; 12:9; Jas 1:17,27; 3:9; 1Pe 1:2,3,17; 1Jo 1:2; 2:1,13,15,22-24; 3:1; 4:14; 2Jo 1:3,4,9; Jude 1:1; Re 1:5; 3:5; 14:1

- See ADOPTION
ADOPTION

-FAVOR OF

- See GOD, GRACE OF

-FOREKNOWLEDGE OF

1Sa 23:10-12; Isa 42:9; 44:7; 45:11; 46:9,10; 48:3,5,6; Jer 1:5; Da 2:28,29; Mt 6:8; 24:36; Ac 15:18; Ro 8:29; 11:2; 1Pe 1:2

- See GOD, KNOWLEDGE OF

- See GOD, WISDOM OF

- See PREDESTINATION
PREDESTINATION

-GLORY OF

Ex 3:2; 19:16,18,19; 20:18,19; 24:10,17; 33:18-20,22,23; 34:5,29-35; 40:34,35; De 4:11,12,33,36; 5:5,24,25; 7:21; 10:17; 28:58; 33:2,26; 2Sa 22:1-51; 1Ki 19:12; 1Ch 16:24,25; Job 9:32,33; 13:11; 22:12; 25:3; 35:5-7; 37:4,5,22; Ps 8:9; 18:7-15; 19:1-4; 24:8-10; 29:2-4; 46:10; 57:5,11; 68:24; 72:18,19; 76:4; 96:3,4,6,7; 97:2-6,9; 102:16,22; 104:31; 106:8; 113:4; 145:5,12; Isa 1:24; 2:10; 6:1-5; 12:6; 24:23; 26:15; 28:5; 29:23; 30:30; 33:5,10; 35:2; 40:5; 43:7,21; 44:23; 48:9,11; 49:3,26; 52:10; 55:9; 57:15; 60:1,2,6,19-21; 61:3; 62:3; 63:12,14; 66:1,2,18; Jer 13:11; 17:12; 33:9; Eze 1:26-28; 3:12,23; 8:4; 20:14,44; 36:22,23; 43:4,5; Hab 3:4-6; Mt 6:9,13; Lu 2:14; Joh 8:50; 12:28; 13:31,32; 14:13; 17:1,10; Ac 7:55; Ro 1:23; 11:36; 2Co 1:20; 4:15; Eph 1:6,12,14; 2:7; 3:21; Php 1:11; 2:11; 4:19; 1Ti 6:15,16; Heb 12:18-21; Jude 1:25; Re 4:11; 15:8; 21:10,11,23

- See GLORY
GLORY

- See PRAISE
PRAISE

-GOODNESS OF

Ex 33:19; 34:6; De 30:9; 1Ch 16:34; 2Ch 5:13; 7:3; Ps 8:1-9; 17:7; 25:8-10; 33:5; 34:8; 36:7; 52:1,9; 68:19; 69:16; 73:1; 86:5; 100:5; 106:1; 107:8,9,43; 118:29;

119:64,68; 135:3; 136:1; 139:17,18; 143:10; 144:3; 145:7,9; Isa 63:7; Jer 9:24; La 3:25; Ho 3:5; Na 1:7; Mt 7:11; 19:17; Mr 10:18; Lu 1:53; 6:35; 18:19; Ro 2:4; 11:22; 2Th 1:11; Tit 3:4; Jas 1:5,17; 1Jo 4:8

- See GOD, GRACE OF

- See GOD, LONGSUFFERING OF

- See GOD, LOVE OF

- See GOD, MERCY OF

-GRACE OF

Ge 6:8,9; 18:26,28,30,32; 32:28; 46:4; Ex 3:12; 20:21,24; 24:2; 33:11,12,17,22,23; Le 26:11,12; Nu 5:3; 6:27; 14:14; 22:12; 23:20,21; 24:1; De 4:7; 31:6,8; 33:23; Jos 1:5,9; 1Sa 2:26; 2Sa 22:20; 1Ki 6:13; 2Ch 15:2; Job 10:12; 22:27; 29:3-5; Ps 3:8; 5:12; 11:7; 18:19,25,26; 24:4,5; 25:14; 30:7; 36:9; 37:18,23; 41:11,12; 44:3; 46:7; 58:11; 68:16,18; 75:10; 84:11; 89:17; 92:10; 94:19; 102:13; 112:9; 115:12,13,15; 132:13,14; 147:11; 149:4; Pr 3:4,23,32,35; 8:35; 10:6,22,24; 11:20,27; 12:2; 14:9; 16:7; Isa 28:5; 30:26; 33:17,22; 41:10; 43:5,21; 54:8; 60:10; Jer 15:20; La 3:24; Eze 37:27; 39:29; 48:35; Ho 14:4; Joe 2:26,27; 3:16,17,20,21; Am 3:2; Zep 3:15,17; Hag 1:13; Zec 2:5; 8:3; 9:16; Lu 1:28,30,66; 2:52; Joh 14:16-21,23; 15:15; Ac 4:33; 10:35; Ro 2:29; 1Co 1:9; 3:21-23; 2Co 4:15; 10:18; Ga 4:6; Eph 1:6; 2:13,14,16,18,19,22; 3:12; Ro 5:2; Heb 4:16; 10:19,22; 11:5; 1Pe 2:9; 1Jo 1:3; 3:19; 4:17,18; Re 1:5,6; 3:20; 19:9; 21:3

- See GRACE
GRACE OF GOD

-INSTANCES OF SPECIAL GRACE

- To Enoch
Ge 5:24

- To Noah
Ge 6:8

- To Abraham
Ge 12:2

- To Jacob
Ge 32:28; 46:4

- To Moses
Ex 3:12; 33:12,14

- To Solomon

1Ch 22:18

-GUIDE

Ge 12:1; Ex 13:21; 15:13; 33:13-15; Nu 10:33; De 32:10,12; 2Sa 22:29; 2Ch 32:22; Ne 9:19,20; Ps 5:8; 23:2,3; 25:5,9; 27:11; 31:3; 32:8; 48:14; 61:2; 73:24; 78:52; 80:1; 107:7; 139:9,10,24; Pr 8:20; Isa 40:11; 42:16; 48:17; 55:4; 57:18; 58:11; Jer 3:4; Lu 1:79; Joh 10:3,4; 16:13

- See GOD, PROVIDENCE OF

-HOLINESS OF

Ex 3:5; 15:11; Le 11:44; 19:2; 20:26; 21:8; De 32:4; Jos 5:15; 24:19; 1Sa 2:2; 6:20; 1Ch 16:10; Job 4:17-19; 6:10; 15:15; 25:5; 34:10; 36:23; Ps 11:7; 18:30; 22:3; 30:4; 33:4,5; 36:6; 47:8; 48:1,10; 60:6; 89:35; 92:15; 98:1; 99:3,5,9; 105:3; 108:7; 111:9; 119:142; 145:17; Pr 9:10; Isa 5:16; 6:3; 12:6; 29:19,23; 41:14; 43:14,15; 45:19; 47:4; 49:7; 52:10; 57:15; Jer 2:5; La 3:38; Eze 36:21,22; 39:7,25; Da 4:8; Ho 11:9; Hab 1:12,13; Mt 5:48; 19:17; Mr 10:18; Lu 1:49; 18:19; Joh 7:28; 17:11; Ro 1:23; Heb 1:8; Jas 1:13; 1Pe 1:15,16; 1Jo 1:5; 2:20; Re 4:8; 6:10; 15:4

- See SIN, ALIENATES FROM GOD
SIN

- See GOD, PERFECTION OF

- See GOD, RIGHTEOUSNESS OF

-HUMAN FORMS AND APPEARANCE OF

- See ANTHROPOMORPHISMS
ANTHROPOMORPHISMS

-IMMUTABLE

Nu 23:19,20; 1Sa 15:29; Job 23:13; Ps 33:11; 119:89-91; Pr 19:21; Ec 3:14; 7:13; Isa 31:2; 40:28; 59:1; Ho 13:14; Mal 3:6; Ro 11:29; Heb 6:17,18; Jas 1:17

-IMPARTIAL

De 10:17; Job 36:5; 37:24; Ac 10:34,35; Ro 2:6,11; Ga 2:6; Eph 6:8; Col 3:25; 1Pe 1:17

-INCOMPREHENSIBLE

Ex 20:21; De 4:11; 5:22; 1Ki 8:12; Job 11:7-9; 15:8; 37:1-24; Ps 18:11; 97:2; Ec 3:11; Isa 40:12-31; 55:8,9; 1Co 2:16

-SYMBOLIZED

- By the pillar of fire

Ex 14:19,20

- By the darkness of the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle
1Ki 8:12

- By the general structure of the Most Holy Place, see
Le 16:2

- See GOD, UNSEARCHABLE

-INFINITE

1Ki 8:27; 2Ch 2:6; 6:1,18; Ps 147:5; Jer 23:24

- See GOD, INCOMPREHENSIBLE

- See GOD, UBIQUITY OF

- See GOD, UNSEARCHABLE

-INVISIBLE

Ex 20:21; 33:20; De 4:11,15; 5:22; 1Ki 8:12; Job 9:11; 23:8,9; Ps 18:11; 97:2; Joh 1:18; 5:37; 6:46; Ro 1:20; Col 1:13-15; 1Ti 1:17; 6:16; Heb 11:27; 1Jo 4:12

- See GOD, INCOMPREHENSIBLE

- See GOD, INFINITE

- See GOD, UNSEARCHABLE

-JEALOUS

Ex 20:5,7; 34:14; De 4:24; 5:9,11; 6:15; 29:20; 32:16,21; Jos 24:19; 2Ch 16:7-10; Isa 30:1,2; 31:1,3; Eze 23:25; 36:5; 39:25; Joe 2:18; Na 1:2; Zec 1:14; 1Co 10:22

-JUDGE, AND HIS JUSTICE

Ge 16:5; 18:20,21,25; Ex 20:5; 34:7; Nu 16:22; De 4:24; 10:17; 32:4,35; Jos 24:19; Jg 9:56,57; 11:27; 1Sa 2:3,10; 24:12,15; 2Sa 14:14; 22:25-27; 1Ki 8:32; 1Ch 16:33; 2Ch 6:22,23; 19:7; Ne 9:33; Job 4:17; 8:3; 9:15,28; 21:22; 23:7; 31:13-15; 34:10-12,17,19,23; 35:14; 36:3,19; 37:23; Ps 7:8,9,11; 9:4,7,8; 11:4,5,7; 18:25,26; 19:9; 26:1,2; 33:5; 35:24; 43:1; 50:4,6; 51:4; 58:11; 62:12; 67:4; 71:19; 75:7; 76:8,9; 82:8; 85:10; 89:14; 90:8,11; 92:15; 94:1,2,10; 96:10,13; 97:2; 98:2,3,9; 99:4,8; 103:6; 111:7; 119:137; 129:4; 135:14; 143:2; 145:17; Pr 11:31; 16:2; 17:3; 21:2,3; 24:12; 29:13,26; Ec 3:15,17; 11:9; 12:14; Isa 1:27; 3:13,14; 10:17,18; 26:7; 28:17,21; 30:18,27,30; 31:2; 33:22; 45:21; 61:8; Jer 9:24; 10:10; 11:20; 12:1; 20:12; 32:19; 50:7; 51:10; La 1:18; Eze 14:23; 18:25,29,30; 33:7-19; Da 4:37; 7:9,10; 9:7,14; Ho 10:10; Am 8:7; Na 1:3,6; Zep 3:5; Mal 3:5,18; Ac 10:34; 17:31; Ro 1:32; 2:2,5-16; 3:4-6,26; 9:14; 11:22; Eph 6:8,9;

Col 3:25; 2Th 1:4-6; Heb 6:10; 10:30,31; 12:22,23,29; 1Pe 1:17; 2Pe 2:9; 1Jo 1:9; Jude 1:6; Re 6:16,17; 11:18; 15:3; 16:5-7; 18:8; 19:2

- See JESUS, JUDGE
JESUS, THE CHRIST

- See GOVERNMENT, GOD IN
GOVERNMENT

- See HOLINESS OF GOD, above

- See RIGHTEOUSNESS OF, below

- See also JUDGMENT, GENERAL
JUDGMENT

- See JUDGMENTS
JUDGMENTS

- See SIN, PUNISHMENT OF
SIN

-KING

- See SOVEREIGN, below
-KNOWLEDGE OF

Ge 16:13; 20:6; Ex 3:3,7,9,19,20; 6:1; 11:1; 14:3,4; Nu 14:27; De 2:7; 31:21; 1Sa 2:3; 16:7; 2Sa 7:20; 1Ki 8:39; 2Ki 19:27; 1Ch 28:9; 29:17; 2Ch 6:30; 16:9; Ne 9:10; Job 11:11; 12:13,16,22; 21:22; 22:13,14; 23:10; 24:1,23; 26:6; 28:10,24; 31:4; 34:21,22,25; 36:4,5; 37:16; 42:2; Ps 1:6; 7:9; 10:11; 11:4; 33:13-15; 37:18; 38:9; 44:21; 66:7; 69:19; 73:11; 92:5; 94:7,9-11; 103:14; 104:24; 119:168; 121:3,4; 136:5; 139:1-24; 142:3; 147:4,5; Pr 3:19,20; 5:21; 15:3,11; 16:2; 17:3; 21:2; 24:12; Isa 28:29; 29:15,16; 37:28; 40:13,14,26-28; 41:4; 42:9; 44:7; 45:4,21; 46:10; 48:3,5,6; 66:18; Jer 5:3; 10:7,12; 11:20; 17:10; 20:12; 23:24; 32:19; 51:15; Eze 9:9; 11:5; Da 2:20,22,28; Am 4:13; 9:2-4; Zec 4:10; Mt 6:4,8,18,32; 10:29,30; 24:36; Mr 13:32; Lu 16:15; Ac 1:24; 2:23; 15:8,18; Ro 8:27,29; 11:33,34; 16:27; 1Co 1:25; 2:7; 3:20; 8:3; Ga 4:9; Eph 1:8; 3:10; 1Th 2:4; 1Ti 1:17; 2Ti 2:19; Heb 4:13; 1Pe 1:2; 1Jo 1:5; 3:20; Jude 1:25

- See GOD, FOREKNOWLEDGE OF

- See GOD, WISDOM OF

-LONGSUFFERING OF

Ge 6:3; 15:16; Ex 34:6; Nu 14:18; Ps 86:15; 103:8-10; Isa 5:1-4; 30:18; 42:14; 48:9,11; Jer 7:13,23-25; 11:7; 15:15; Eze 20:17; Joe 2:13; Hab 1:2-4; Mt 19:8; 21:33-41;

23:37; Mr 12:1-9; Lu 13:6-9,34; 20:9-16; Ac 14:16; 17:30; Ro 2:4; 3:25; 9:22,23; 15:5; 1Pe 3:20; 2Pe 3:9,15; Re 2:21,22

•SEE GOD, LOVE OF

•See GOD, MERCY OF

-LONGSUFFERING OF, ABUSED

Ne 9:28-31; Pr 1:24-27; 29:1; Ec 8:11; Mt 24:48-51; Lu 13:6-9

-LOVE OF

De 4:37; 7:7,8,13; 9:29; 10:15,18; 23:5; 33:3,12; 2Sa 12:24; 1Ki 8:51-53; Ne 13:26; Job 7:17; Ps 42:8; 47:4; 63:3; 78:61,62,65,68; 89:33; 103:13; 146:8; Pr 15:9; Isa 38:17; 43:4; Jer 31:3; Ho 11:1; Mal 1:2; Joh 3:16; 5:20; 14:21,23; 16:27; 17:10,23,26; 20:17; Ro 1:7; 5:8; 9:13; 11:28; 2Co 9:7; 13:11; Eph 2:4,5; 2Th 2:16; Tit 3:4,5; Heb 12:6; 1Jo 3:1; 4:8-10,12,13,15,16,19; Jude 1:21; Re 3:12; 14:1

-LOVE OF, EXEMPLIFIED

Ge 17:7; 46:3; Ex 3:6; 6:7; 19:4-6; 29:45,46; Le 11:44,45; 20:24,26; 22:32,33; 25:23,38,42,55; 26:12; Nu 15:41; De 4:20,34,37; 7:6-8,13; 9:29; 10:15; 14:2; 23:5; 26:18,19; 27:9; 28:9,10; 29:13; 32:9-12; 33:3,12; 2Sa 7:23,24; 12:24; 1Ki 8:51-53; Ne 13:26; Ps 4:3; 31:19,21; 42:8; 47:4; 48:9,14; 50:5,7; 63:3; 73:1; 74:2; 78:61,62,65,68; 79:13; 81:13; 89:33; 90:1; 95:7; 100:3; 103:4; 105:6; 114:2; 135:4; 148:14; Pr 11:20; 15:9; Isa 5:7; 41:8-10; 43:1-4,7; 44:1,2,21,22; 48:12; 49:13-17; 51:16; 54:5,6,10; 62:4,5; 63:7-9; 64:4; 65:19; 66:13; Jer 3:14,15; 10:16; 12:7; 13:11; 15:16; 30:22; 31:3,14,32; 32:41; 51:19; Eze 16:1-14; 34:31; 37:27; Ho 2:19,20,23; 9:10; 11:1,3,4; Zep 3:17; Hag 2:23; Zec 1:14; 2:8; 8:8; 13:9; Mal 1:2,3; 3:16,17; Mt 18:11-14; Lu 15:4-7,11-27; Joh 14:21; 16:27; 17:10,23,26; Ro 1:7; 5:8; 8:31,32,39; 11:28; 1Co 2:9; 3:9; 6:19,20; 7:23; 2Co 5:18-21; 6:16; 13:14; Eph 1:3-6; Col 3:12; Heb 11:16; Jas 1:18; 1Pe 2:10

-MERCY OF

Ge 8:21; 18:26-32; 19:16; Ex 2:24,25; 15:13; 20:2,6,22; 22:27; 25:17; 32:14,34; 33:19; 34:6,7; Le 26:40-45; Nu 14:18-20; 16:48; 21:8; De 4:31; 5:10,29; 7:9; 32:29,36,43; Jg 2:18; 3:9,15; 10:16; 2Sa 12:13; 14:14; 24:14,16; 1Ki 8:23; 11:39; 2Ki 13:23; 14:26,27; 1Ch 16:34; 2Ch 5:13; 7:3,6,14; 24:19; 30:9; 36:15; Ezr 9:7-14; Ne 1:10; 9:17-20,27-31; Job 11:6; 23:2-6; 24:12; 33:14-30; Ps 18:50; 25:6; 30:5; 31:7; 32:1,2,5; 36:5; 50:21; 57:10; 62:12; 65:3; 69:16; 78:4-72; 80:1; 85:2,3,10; 86:5,13,15; 89:2,28; 99:8; 100:5; 103:3,8-14,17; 106:1,43-46; 107:1; 108:4; 111:4; 116:5; 117:2; 118:1-4,29; 119:64,156; 130:3,4,7,8; 135:14; 136:3-26; 138:2; 145:8,9; 146:7,8; Pr 16:6; 28:13; Isa 1:5,18; 6:7; 12:1; 17:6; 24:13; 54:9; 55:7-9; 57:11,15,16,18,19; 60:10; 65:2,8; Jer 2:9; 3:12,22; 4:27; 5:10; 9:24; 29:11; 30:11; 31:20,34,37; 32:18; 33:8,11; 36:3,6,7; 46:28; 50:20; 51:5; La 3:22,23,31-33; Eze 14:22; 16:6,42,63; 18:23,31,32; 20:17,42; 33:11; 36:25; Da 4:22-27; 9:4,9; Ho 2:14-23; 11:8,9; 14:1-8; Joe 2:13,18; 3:21; Am 7:3; Jon 4:2,10,11; Mic 7:18,19; Na 1:3; Zep 2:7; Zec 1:16,17; 3:9; 10:6; Mal 3:6; Mt 6:14; 18:11-14,23-27; Lu 1:50,77,78; 6:36; 15:4-7; Ac 3:19; 17:30; 26:18; Ro 9:15,18; 10:12,13; 11:32; 15:9; 1Co 15:10; 2Co 1:3; 4:15; 12:9; Eph 1:6-8; 2:4-7; 1Ti 1:13; Tit

3:5; Heb 4:16; 8:12; Jas 2:13; 4:8; 5:11,15; 1Pe 1:3; 2:10; 5:10; 2Pe 3:9,15; 1Jo 1:9; Re 2:21

- See GOD, LONGSUFFERING OF

- See GOD, LOVE OF

-OMNIPOTENT

Ge 17:1; 18:14; Job 42:2; Isa 26:4; Mt 19:26; Lu 1:37; Ac 26:8; Re 19:6; 21:22

- For uses of the term "Almighty" consult a concordance

- See CREATOR, above

- See GOD, POWER OF, below

- See GOD, PRESERVER, below

-ONNIPRESENT

Ge 28:16; 1Ki 8:27; 2Ch 2:6; Ps 139:3,5,7-10; Jer 23:23,24; Ac 7:48,49; 17:24,27,28

- See PRESENCE OF, UBIQUITOUS

-OMNISCIENT

- See GOD, KNOWLEDGE OF

- See GOD, WISDOM OF

-PERFECTION OF

De 32:4; 2Sa 22:31; Ps 18:30; Mt 5:48; Ro 12:2; Jas 1:17

- See GOD, HOLINESS OF

- See GOD, JUDGE, AND HIS JUSTICE

-PERSONALITY OF

Ex 3:14; 8:10; 15:11; 20:3; 34:14; De 4:35,39; 5:7; 6:4; 10:17; 32:12,39; Jos 22:22; Jg 13:16; 1Sa 2:2; 7:3; 2Sa 7:22; 22:32; 1Ki 8:23,60; 2Ki 17:36; 19:15; 2Ch 6:14; Ezr 1:3; Ne 9:6; Ps 18:31; 86:10; 96:5; Isa 37:16; 40:25; 42:8; 43:10,11; 44:6,8; 45:5,6,18,21,22; 46:5,9; Jer 10:6,7,10; 14:22; 32:27; Ho 13:4; Mal 2:10; Mt 4:10; 23:9; Mr 12:32; Joh 14:9; 17:3; Ro 1:25; 3:29; 1Co 8:4-6; 2Co 4:4; Ga 3:20; Eph 4:6; Col 1:15; 1Th 1:9; 1Ti 2:5; Heb 1:3

- See GOD, UNITY OF, below

- POWER OF

Ex 15:3,6-8,10-12; Nu 11:23; 23:20; De 3:24; 7:21; 11:2; 32:39; Jos 4:24; 1Sa 2:6-8,10; 14:6; 2Sa 22:13,16; 1Ch 29:11,12; 2Ch 14:11; 16:9; 20:6; 25:8,9; Ezr 8:22; Ne 1:10; Job 5:9; 9:4-7,10,12,13,19; 10:7; 11:10; 12:14-16; 14:20; 23:13,14; 26:11,12,14; 34:14,15; 36:5,22,27-33; 37:1-23; 38:8,11,37; 40:9; 41:10,11; 42:2; Ps 2:4,5; 18:1-50; 21:13; 29:3-9; 33:9; 46:6; 62:11; 65:6,7; 66:3,7; 68:33-35; 74:13,15; 76:6,7; 77:14,16,18; 78:12-16,26,43-51; 79:11; 89:8,9,13; 90:3; 93:1,4; 97:3-5; 104:7,9,29,30,32; 105:1-45; 106:8; 107:25,29; 111:6; 114:3-8; 115:3; 118:16; 135:6,8-12; 136:10-22; 144:5; 145:6,16; 147:5,16,18; 148:5,8; Pr 21:30; 30:4; Isa 14:24,27; 17:13; 19:1; 23:11; 26:4; 27:4; 31:3; 33:3,13; 40:12,22,24,26,28; 43:13,16,17; 44:27; 46:10,11; 48:13; 50:2,3; 51:10,15; 52:10; 59:1; 60:16; 63:12; Jer 5:22; 10:6,12,13; 20:11; 27:5; 32:17,27; 50:44; 51:15; Da 2:20; 3:17; 4:35; 6:27; Joe 2:11; 3:16; Am 1:2; 4:13; 9:5,6; Mic 1:3,4; Na 1:3-6; Hab 3:6,9-11,15; Zec 9:14; Mt 3:9; 6:13; 10:28; 19:26; 22:29; Mr 10:27; 14:36; Lu 1:37,49,51; 11:20; 18:27; Ro 1:20; 4:21; 1Co 6:14; 2Co 13:4; Eph 1:19,20; 3:20,21; Heb 1:3; 12:26,29; Jas 4:12; 1Pe 1:5; Re 4:11; 5:13; 11:17; 19:1,6

•See GOD, OMNIPOTENT, above

-PRESENCE OF

Ge 16:13; 28:16; Ex 20:24; De 4:34-36,39; Jos 2:11; 1Ki 8:27; 2Ch 2:6; Ps 139:3,5,7-10; Isa 57:15; 66:1; Jer 23:23,24; 32:18,19; Jon 1:3,4; Ac 7:48,49; 17:24,27,28; 1Co 12:6; Eph 1:23

•See GOD, OMNIPRESENT, above

•See GOD, PRESERVER, below

-PRESERVER

Ge 14:20; 28:15; 31:3,13; 48:15,16; 49:24,25; Ex 3:17; 6:6,7; 8:22,23; 9:26; 11:7; 12:13,17,23; 13:21,22; 14:29,30; 15:2,13,16,17; 16:15; 19:4; 23:20-31; 34:24; Nu 10:33; 23:23; De 1:30,31; 7:21,22; 9:3; 11:25; 23:14; 30:4,20; 31:3; 32:10; 33:12,25-29; Jos 23:10; 1Sa 2:6,9; 9:16; 2Sa 22:28; 2Ki 20:6; 2Ch 16:9; 20:15,17; Ezr 8:22,23; Ne 9:6; Job 1:10; 4:7; 5:11,18-24; 10:12; 11:18,19; 22:25; 27:3,4; 33:18; 36:7,16; Ps 1:6; 3:3; 9:9; 10:17,18; 12:7; 14:5,6; 17:7; 18:17,27; 19:14; 25:8,9,12; 31:20,23; 32:6,8; 34:14,17,19-22; 37:17,23,24,28,32,33; 41:1-3; 46:1,5,7; 48:3; 50:15; 61:3,6; 68:6,22; 72:14; 73:23; 80:1; 84:11; 87:5; 91:1-16; 94:13; 97:10; 102:19,20; 103:2-5; 107:9,10; 112:4; 115:10; 116:6; 118:13; 121:3-8; 124:1-8; 125:1-3; 127:1; 145:14,19,20; 146:7,8; 147:2,3; Pr 2:7,8; 3:6,23,24; 10:3,30; 11:8; 12:3,13,21; 14:26; 15:19; 16:9,33; 19:23; 20:22,24; 21:31; 22:12; 24:16; Isa 4:5,6; 10:27; 14:3; 26:7; 27:3; 30:21,26; 31:4,5,9; 32:2,18; 33:16,20; 35:9; 37:32,35; 40:11,29,31; 42:13,16; 43:2; 45:2,4; 46:3,4; 48:17; 49:9,10,17,25; 51:9,10,22; 52:12; 54:14,15,17; 57:14; 58:11; 59:19; 63:9; Jer 2:3,6,20; 3:4; 11:4; 30:7,11,17; 31:9,10,28; Eze 9:4,6; 11:16; 34:11-16,22,31; Da 3:27,28; 12:1; Ho 2:18; 13:10; Joe 2:18; Am 5:8,9; 9:9; Mic 2:13; Na 1:12; Zep 3:13,15,17,19,20; Zec 2:5,8; 4:6,7,10; 9:8,14-16; 12:8; Mt 4:6; 10:29-31; 24:22,31; Mr 13:20; Lu 12:6,7; 18:7,8; 21:18; Ac 17:28; Ro 8:28; 1Co 10:13; 2Th 3:3; Heb 1:14; Jas 4:15; 1Pe 3:12,13; 2Pe 2:9; Re 3:10; 7:3; 12:6

-HIS PRESERVING CARE EXEMPLIFIED

- To Noah and his family, at the time of the flood
Ge 6:8,13-21; 7:1-24; 8:1,15,16
- To Abraham and Sarah, in Egypt
Ge 12:17
- in Gerar
Ge 20:3
- To Lot, when Sodom was destroyed
Ge 19:1-38
- To Hagar, when Abraham cast her out
Ge 21:17,19
- To Jacob, when he fled from Laban, his father-in-law
Ge 31:24,29
- when he met Esau
Ge 33:3-10
- as he journeyed in the land of Canaan
Ge 35:5
- To Joseph, in Egypt
Ge 39:2,21
- To Moses, in his infancy
Ex 2:1-10
- To the Israelites, in bringing about their deliverance from bondage
Ex 1:9-12; 2:23-25; 3:7-9
- in exempting the land of Goshen from the plague of flies
Ex 8:22
- in preserving their cattle from the plague of murrain,
Ex 9:4-7
- in exempting the land of Goshen from the plague of darkness
Ex 10:21-23
- in saving the firstborn, when the plague of death destroyed the firstborn of Egypt,
Ex 12:13,23

- deliverance from Egypt,
Ex 13:3,17-22; 14:1-31; 19:4; Le 26:13
- in the wilderness
Ex 40:36-38; Nu 9:17-23; 10:33; 22:12; 23:8; De 2:31; 23:5
- Victories over the Canaanites under Joshua
Jos 6:1-27; 7:1-26; 8:1-35; 9:1-27; 10:1-43; 11:1-23; 24:11-13
- under Othniel
Jg 3:9-11
- under Ehud
Jg 3:15-30
- under Shamgar
Jg 3:31
- under Deborah
Jg 4:5
- under Gideon
Jg 7:1-25; 8:1-23
- under Jephthah
Jg 11:29-40
- on account of Samuel's intercession
1Sa 7:7-10
- under David
1Sa 17:45-49
- Ahab
1Ki 20:1-43
- Delivering the kingdom of Israel from Syria
2Sa 7:1-29
- delivering Israel by Jeroboam II
2Ki 14:26,27
- by Abijah
2Ch 13:4-18

- in delivering from the oppressions of the king of Syria
2Ki 13:2-5
- To the kingdom of Judah: in delivering from Egypt
2Ch 12:2-12
- the Ethiopian host
2Ch 14:11-14
- in giving peace with other nations
2Ch 17:1-19
- delivering them from the army of the Assyrians
2Ki 19:1-37
- To David,
2Sa 7:1-29; 1Ch 11:13,14
- Hezekiah
2Ki 19:1-37; Job 1:9-12; 2:6
- Jeremiah and Baruch
Jer 36:26
- Daniel and the three Hebrew captives
Da 2:18-23; 3:27; 6:1-28
- Jonah
Jon 1:17
- The wise men of the east
Mt 2:12
- Jesus and his parents
Mt 2:13,19-22
- Peter
Ac 12:3-17
- Paul and Silas
Ac 16:26-39
- Paul
Ac 27:24; 28:5,6; Mr 16:18
- See AFFLICTION, COMFORT IN

AFFLICTIONS AND ADVERSITIES

- See FAITH
FAITH
- See GOD
- See SAVIOUR
SAVIOUR (SAVIOR)
- See POOR, GOD'S CARE OF
POOR
- See GOD, GRACE OF
- See instances under the sub-topic: GOD, PROVIDENCE OF

-PROVIDENCE OF

Ge 1:29,30; 2:16; 8:22; 9:1-3; 22:14,17; 26:4,5; 28:20,21; 49:11,12,20,24,25; Ex 15:26; 23:22,25,26; 34:24; Le 25:18-22; 26:4-6,10; Nu 10:29; De 1:10; 2:7; 4:4,40; 5:29,33; 6:2-25; 7:13-24; 8:3,4,18; 10:18; 11:7,8,12-15; 12:7,28; 13:17,18; 15:4-6; 26:19; 28:2-13; 29:5,9; 30:15-20; 32:11-14,47; Jos 1:8; Ru 1:6; 1Sa 2:7,8; 14:6; 2Sa 7:8,9; 1Ki 2:3,4; 9:4,5; 1Ch 17:7,8; 22:9,13; 28:8; 29:12,14,16; 2Ch 1:12; 7:17,18; 20:3-30; 30:9; 31:10; Ezr 8:22; Ne 9:25; Job 5:6-11,24-26; 8:6,7,20,21; 11:17-19; 12:23; 22:18,24,25,28; 29:5,19,20; 33:14-30; 36:11; 37:6-24; 38:25-27,41; 39:5,6; Ps 21:3-5; 23:1-6; 33:12,15; 34:7,9,10; 36:6,7; 37:3,19,22,25,34; 40:5; 44:1-3; 65:9-13; 67:6; 68:6,9,10; 69:35,36; 71:6,7,15; 72:16; 78:52-55; 81:13-16; 85:12; 87:5; 100:3; 103:3-5; 104:10-19,24-30; 105:14-45; 107:1-43; 111:5; 113:6-9; 115:16; 116:1-15; 118:5,6,13,14; 122:9; 127:1-5; 128:2-6; 135:6-12; 136:5-25; 144:12-15; 145:15,16; 146:7-9; 147:8,9,13,14; Pr 2:21; 3:1,2; 10:22,27; 11:10,11,31; 13:25; 14:11,19,34; 15:6; 16:7,9; 28:10; Ec 2:24,26; 3:13; 5:19; Isa 1:19; 25:4; 30:23-26; 33:16; 43:20; 46:3,4; 48:17,21; 51:2; Ac 7:34-36; Isa 55:10; 61:9; 62:9; 65:13,23; Jer 5:24; 10:13; 14:22; 22:15; 27:6; 30:19; 31:35; 33:11; 51:16; Eze 36:9-11,28-38; Da 5:18; 6:20-22; Ho 2:8,21,22; 11:3; Joe 2:18-26; Am 4:7-12; 9:13; Jon 4:6; Hag 2:19; Zec 3:7; 8:12; 9:17; 10:1; Mal 3:10-12; Mt 5:5,45; 6:26,30-33; 10:29-31; Lu 12:6,7,24-28; 22:35; Joh 6:31; Ac 14:17; 1Co 2:9; 16:2; 2Co 9:8-10

-INSTANCES OF

- Saving Noah
Ge 7:1
- The call of Abraham
Ge 12:1
- Protecting Abraham, Sarah, and Abimelech

Ge 20:3-6

- The deliverance of Lot
Ge 19:1-38
- The care of Isaac
Ge 26:2,3
- The mission of Joseph
Ge 39:2,3,23; 45:7,8; 50:20; Ps 105:17-22
- Warning Pharaoh about the famine
Ge 41:1-57
- Delivering the Israelites
Ex 3:8; 11:3; 13:18; Ac 7:34-36
- The pillar of cloud
Ex 13:21; 14:19,20
- Dividing the Red Sea
Ex 14:21
- Delaying and destroying Pharaoh
Ex 14:25-30
- Purifying the waters of Marah
Ex 15:25
- Supplying manna and quail
Ex 16:13-15; Nu 11:31,32
- Supplying water at Meribah
Nu 20:7-11; Ne 9:10-25
- Protection of homes while at feasts
Ex 34:24
- In the conquest of Canaan
Ps 44:2,3
- Saving David's army
2Sa 5:23-25
- The revolt of the ten tribes
1Ki 12:15,24; 2Ch 10:15

- Fighting the battles of Israel
2Ch 13:12,18; 14:9-14; 16:9; 20:15,17,22,23; 32:21,22
- Restoring Manasseh after his conversion
2Ch 33:12,13
- Feeding Elijah and the widow
1Ki 17:1-24; 19:1-8
- In prospering Hezekiah
2Ki 18:6,7; 2Ch 32:29
- In prospering Asa
2Ch 14:6,7
- In prospering Jehoshaphat
2Ch 17:3,5; 20:30
- In prospering Uzziah
2Ch 26:5-15
- In prospering Jotham
2Ch 27:6
- In prospering Job
Job 1:10; 42:10,12
- In prospering Daniel
Da 1:9
- In turning the heart of the king of Assyria to favor the Jews
Ezr 6:22
- In rescuing Jeremiah
La 3:52-58; Jer 38:6-13
- Restoration of the Jews
2Ch 36:22,23; Ezr 1:1
- Rescuing the Jews from Haman's plot, the Book of Esther
- Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem
Ne 6:16
- Warning Joseph in dreams

Mt 1:20; 2:13,19,20

- Warning the wise men from the east

Mt 2:12,13

- Restoring Epaphroditus

Php 2:27

- In the banishment of John to Patmos

Re 1:9

- See GOD, GOODNESS OF

- See GOD, PRESERVER, above

- See OVERRULING INTERPOSITIONS OF, below

-PROVIDENCE OF, OVERRULING INTERPOSITIONS OF THE

Ge 45:5-7; 50:20; Ex 14:4; Nu 22:12-18; 23:1-30; 24:10-13; De 2:30; 23:4,5; Jos 11:20; Jg 9:23,24; 1Sa 2:6-9; 2Sa 17:14; 1Ki 11:14-40; 12:15; 1Ch 5:26; 2Ch 10:15; 36:22,23; Ezr 1:1; 5:5; 6:22; Ne 6:16; Es 6:1-12; 7:10; 9:1,25; Job 5:12; Ps 17:13,14; 33:10; 75:7; 76:10; 105:17; 127:1,2; Pr 13:22; 14:19; 16:7,33; 19:21; 21:1,18; 28:8; Ec 2:26; 3:1,10; Isa 8:9,10; 10:5-7; 13:3-5; 41:2,4; 43:14; 44:28; 45:1-6,13; 48:14,15; 54:16,17; Jer 51:20,21; 52:3; Eze 21:26,27; 29:19,20; Da 11:27; Ac 3:17,18; 5:38,39; 7:9,10; Ro 1:10; 8:28; 1Co 4:19; 16:7; Php 1:12,19; Phm 1:15; Jas 4:15; Re 17:17

- See GOD, GOODNESS OF

- See GOD, PRESERVER

-PROVIDENCE OF, MYSTERIOUS AND MISINTERPRETED

Job 10:15; 12:6; 21:7; 24:1-12; 33:13; Ps 10:5; 73:2-5,12-17; 89:47; Pr 28:5; Ec 7:15; 8:12-17; 9:2,11; Jer 12:1,2; 50:7; Da 12:10; Mic 4:12; Hab 1:2,3,11,13,14; Mal 3:14,15

- See BLINDNESS, SPIRITUAL
BLINDNESS

-INSTANCES OF

- Elijah's trials

1Ki 19:1-21

- Job's

Job 3:19-23; 1:1-22; 2:1-13

- Israelites

Ex 5:20-23

-RIGHTEOUSNESS OF

Jg 5:11; Ezr 9:15; Job 36:3; Ps 5:8; 7:9; 48:10; 50:6; 71:15,19; 72:1; 88:12; 89:16; 97:2; 111:3; 112:4; 116:5; 119:40,137,142,144,172; 143:1; 145:7,17; Isa 41:10; 51:8; 56:1; Jer 4:2; 9:24; 12:1; La 3:34,36; Da 9:7; Ho 14:9; Mic 7:9; Mt 6:33; Joh 17:25; Ac 17:31; Ro 1:17; 3:4-6,21,22; 9:14; 10:3,4; 2Ti 4:8; 1Pe 2:23; 2Pe 1:1; 1Jo 2:1; Re 16:5

•See GOD, HOLINESS OF

•See GOD, JUDGE, AND HIS JUSTICE

-SAVIOUR

Ge 48:16; Ex 15:2; De 32:15,31,39; 33:25-29; 1Sa 2:2; Job 33:24,27-29; Ps 3:8; 18:30,31; 19:14; 25:5; 27:1; 28:8; 31:5; 33:18,19; 34:22; 36:9; 37:39,40; 50:23; 62:1,2,6,7; 65:5; 68:19,20; 71:16; 74:12; 76:8,9; 85:9; 88:1; 96:2; 98:2,3; 111:9; 118:14,21,27; 121:7; 133:3; 145:9; 149:4; Isa 12:2; 25:4,9; 26:1; 33:22; 35:4; 41:14; 43:3,11,12,14; 44:6,22-24; 45:15,17,21,22; 46:12,13; 47:4; 48:17; 49:25; 50:2; 52:3,9,10; 59:1; 60:16; 63:8,16; Jer 3:23; 8:22; 14:8; 30:17; 33:6; 50:34; Eze 37:23; Ho 1:7; 13:4,9; Joe 3:16; Jon 2:9; Zec 9:11,12,16; Lu 1:68; Joh 3:16,17; 6:39; Ro 1:16; 6:23; 8:30-32; 1Co 1:18; 2Co 5:18; Eph 1:3,5; 1Th 5:9; 2Th 2:16,17; 1Ti 2:3,4; 4:10; 2Ti 1:9; Tit 1:2,3; 2:10,11; 3:4,5; 1Pe 1:5; 1Jo 4:9,10; 5:11; Re 7:10; 19:1

•See GOD, PRESERVER, above

-SELF-EXISTENT

•See GOD, ETERNITY OF, above

-SOVEREIGN

Ge 14:18-20,22; 24:3; Ex 8:22; 9:29; 15:18; 18:11; 19:5; Nu 27:16; De 2:19; 4:39; 10:14,17; 32:8,39,41-43; Jos 2:11; 3:11; 1Sa 2:6-8; 2Ki 19:15; 1Ch 29:11,12; 2Ch 20:6; Ne 9:6; Job 9:12; 12:9,10,16,17; 25:2; 33:13; 34:13,24,33; 36:1-33; 41:11; Ps 10:16; 22:28,29; 24:1,10; 29:10; 44:4; 47:2,3,7,8; 50:10-12; 59:13; 65:5; 66:7; 67:4; 74:12; 75:6,7; 76:11,12; 82:1,8; 83:18; 89:11,18; 93:1,2; 95:3-5; 96:10; 97:1,2,5,9; 98:6; 99:1; 103:19; 105:7; 113:4; 115:3,16; 135:5,6; 136:2,3; 145:11-13; 146:10; Ec 9:1; Isa 24:23; 33:22; 37:16; 40:22,23; 43:15; 44:6; 45:7,23; 52:7; 54:5; Jer 10:10; 18:1-23; 27:5-7; 32:27,28; La 3:37,38; 5:19; Eze 16:50; 17:24; 18:4; Da 2:20,21,47; 4:3,17,25,34,35,37; 5:18,26-28; 6:26; Mic 4:7,13; Hag 2:8; Mal 1:14; Mt 6:10,13; 11:25; 20:15; Lu 1:53; 10:21; Joh 10:29; 19:11; Ac 17:24-26; Ro 9:19; 14:11; 1Co 10:26; Eph 4:6; 1Ti 6:15,16; Heb 1:3; Jas 4:12; Re 1:6; 4:11; 11:4,13,17; 19:6

•See GOD, POWER OF

-A SPIRIT

Joh 4:24; Ac 17:29

-TRUTH

Nu 23:19; De 32:4; 1Sa 15:29; Ps 25:10; 31:5; 33:4; 40:10; 43:3; 57:3; 71:22; 86:11,15; 89:14; 91:4; 100:5; 108:4; 117:2; 132:11; 138:2; 146:6; Isa 25:1; 65:6; Jer 10:10; Da 4:37; 9:13; Joh 8:26; 17:17,19; Ro 3:4,7; Tit 1:2; Re 6:10; 15:3

- See GOD, FAITHFULNESS OF, above
- See GOD, JUDGE, AND HIS JUSTICE, above
- See GOD, RIGHTEOUSNESS OF, above
- See also TRUTH
TRUTH

-UBIQUITOUS

1Ki 8:27; 2Ch 2:6; Ps 139:3,5,7-10; Jer 23:23,24; Ac 7:48,49

- See GOD, ETERNITY OF, above
- See GOD, INFINITE, above
- See GOD, OMNIPRESENT, above
- See GOD, POWER OF, above
- See GOD, PRESENCE OF, above
- See GOD, PROVIDENCE OF, above
- UNCHANGABLE
- See IMMUTABLE

-UNITY OF

De 6:4; 1Ki 8:60; 20:28; Isa 42:8; Mr 12:29,32; Joh 17:3; 1Co 8:4,6; Ga 3:20; 1Ti 2:5; Jas 2:19

-UNSEARCHABLE

Ge 32:29; De 29:29; Jg 13:18; 1Ki 8:12,27; 2Ch 2:6; 6:1,18; Job 5:8,9; 9:10; 11:7-9; 26:9,14; 36:26; 37:5,23; Ps 77:19; 92:5; 97:2; 139:6; 145:3; Pr 25:2; 30:4; Ec 3:11; 7:24; 11:5; Isa 40:28; 45:15; 55:8,9; Jer 23:24; Na 1:3; Mt 11:27; Ro 11:33,34; 1Co 2:10,11,16; Eph 3:8

- See MYSTERIES
MYSTERIES

-VOICE OF

- See ANTHROPOMORPHISM
ANTHROPOMORPHISMS

-WISDOM OF

Ezr 7:25; Job 9:4; 12:13,16; Ps 104:24; 136:5; 147:5; Pr 3:19,20; 8:12,22,27-31; Isa 31:2; Jer 10:7,12; 51:15; Da 2:20-22,28; Ro 16:27; 1Co 1:24,25; Eph 1:8; 3:10; 1Ti 1:17; Jude 1:25; Re 7:12

- See GOD, KNOWLEDGE OF, above

- See GOD, OMNISCIENT, above

-WORKS OF

Ge 1:10,18,21,25; De 32:4; Ps 26:7; 33:4; 40:5; 66:3; 75:1; 86:8; 92:4,5; 111:2,4,6; 118:17; 136:1-26; 139:14; Ec 3:11,14; Jer 10:12

- See CREATION
CREATION

- See GOD, CREATOR

- See WORKS
WORKS

I. GOD

In my experience, there are three Christians theologies most Latter-day Saints have difficulty accepting – especially as young Christians.

They are the Trinity, the biblical concepts of hell, and the Christian renunciation of a “preexistence.”

Every time I meet a person who was LDS but has recently become Christian, I find that they have trouble letting go of the LDS teachings regarding God, Hell, and a pre-existence and embracing the biblical teachings regarding them.

Tonight we’re going to approach one of the topics that cause great concern in the newly converted from Mormonism to Christianity heart – the Trinity.

When I came to know the Lord at the side of the road, I had no belief in a Trinitarian God.

I believed in the LDS anthropomorphic God the Father, a being with a body of flesh and bones.

I believed in Jesus as my elder spirit brother.

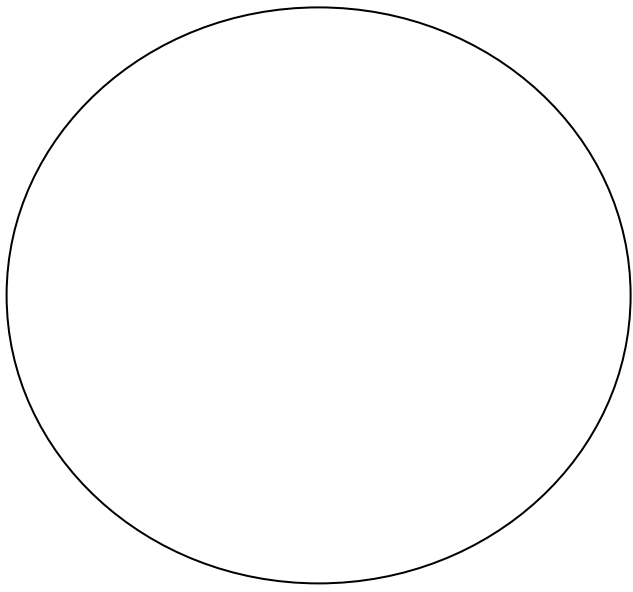
And I thought of the Holy Ghost as a spirit that would someday get a body.

The trinity was foolishness to me. After all, I had been taught for years that it was a product of the twisted philosophies of man.

With new spiritual eyes I began to read the Bible. Word for word, verse by verse, on my own, without input from anyone but while still renouncing the idea of a Trinity.

I read it front to back and came to a profound understanding of God's Word for the first time in my life – and I had read the Bible all my life!

One of the most profound realizations I had was the knowledge that there is one God and only One - not three (or more).



Why do Latter-day Saints teach otherwise?

Joseph Smith.

Consider these verses from the Bible in describing God.

This name, the derivation of which is uncertain, we give to that eternal, infinite, perfect, and incomprehensible Being, the Creator of all things, who preserves and governs all by his almighty power and wisdom, and is the only proper object of worship. The proper Hebrew name for God is JEHOVAH, which signifies He is. But the Jews, from a feeling of reverence, avoid pronouncing this name, substituting for it, wherever it occurs in the sacred test, the word ADONAI, Lord; except in the expression, ADONAI JEHOVAH, Lord Jehovah, for which they put, ADONAI ELOHIM, Lord God. This usage, which is not without an element of superstition, is very ancient, dating its origin some centuries before Christ; but there is no good ground for assuming its existence in the days of the inspired Old Testament writers. The proper word for God is ELOHIM, which is plural in its form, being thus used to signify the manifold perfections of God, or, as some think, the Trinity in the godhead. In Ex 3:14, God replies to Moses, when he asks Him His name, I AM THAT I AM; which means either, I am he who I am, or, I am what I am. In either case the expression implies the eternal self-existence of Jehovah, and his incomprehensible nature. The name I AM means the same as JEHOVAH, the first person being used instead of he third.

The Bible assumes and asserts the existence of God, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth;" and is itself the most illustrious proof of his existence, as well as our chief instructor as to his nature and will. It puts a voice into the mute lips of creation; and not only reveals God in his works, but illustrates his ways in providence, displays the glories of his character, his law, and his grace, and brings man into true and saving communion with him. It reveals him to us as a Spirit, the only being from everlasting and to everlasting by nature, underived, infinite, perfect, and unchangeable in power, wisdom, omniscience, omnipresence, justice, holiness, truth, goodness, and mercy. He is but one God, and yet exists in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and this distinction of the Thee in One is, like his other attributes, from everlasting. He is the source, owner, and ruler of all beings, foreknows and predetermines all events, and is the eternal judge and arbiter of the destiny of all. True religion has its foundation in the right knowledge of God, and consists in supremely loving and faithfully obeying him. See JESUS CHRIST, and HOLY, HOLINESS SPIRIT.

JEHOVAH

The ineffable name of God among the Hebrews. It never has the article before it, nor is it found in the plural form. The Jews never pronounced this name; and wherever it occurs in the Hebrew Scriptures, the substituted for it, in reading, the word ADONAI, Lord, or ELOHIM, God. See GOD. In the Hebrew Bible, it is always written with the vowels of one or the other of these words. Its ancient pronunciation is by many thought to have been Yahweh, but this is not certain. Its meaning is HE IS the same as I AM, the person only being changed. Thus it denotes the self-existence, independence, immutability, and infinite fullness of the divine Being, which is a pledge that he will fulfil all his promises. Compare Ex 3:14, I AM THAT I AM, the meaning of which see under the article GOD. In Ex 6:3, God says, "I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty; but by my name Jehovah was I not known to them;" yet the appellation Jehovah appears to have been known from the beginning, Ge 4:2. We have reason to believe that God himself, who named man Adam, named himself JEHOVAH; but in his revelation to the patriarchs he had not appropriated to himself this name in a peculiar way, as he now did, nor unfolded the deep meaning contained in it. He had said to them, "I am God Almighty," Ge 17:1; 26:11; or, "I am Jehovah, the God of Abraham," etc.; but never simply, "I am Jehovah." It should be remembered that our English version translates this name by the word LORD, printed in small capitals.

JEHOVAH-JIREH

Jehovah will provide, the name given by Abraham to the place where he had been on the point of slaying his son Isaac, Ge 22:14. He gave this name in allusion to his answer to Isaac's question in Ge 22:8, that God would provide a victim for the sacrifice.

JEHOVAH-NISSI

Jehovah my banner, Ex 17:15.

JEHOVAH-SHALOM

Jehovah of peace, or prosperity, the name given by Gideon to an altar which he built in the place where the Angel-Jehovah had appeared to him, and saluted him by saying "Peace be unto thee," Jg 6:24.

JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH

Jehovah is there, the name given by Ezekiel, Eze 48:35, to a future holy city.

JEHOVAH-TZIDEKNU

Jehovah our righteousness, a name given to the Savior, and through him to his church, Jer 23:6; 33:16.

LORD

This name belongs to God by preeminence; and in this sense ought never to be given to any creature. Jesus Christ, as the Messiah, the Son of God, and equal with the Father, is often called Lord in Scripture, especially in the writing of Paul. The word LORD, in the English Bible, when printed in small capitals, stands always for JEHOVAH in the Hebrew. See JEHOVAH.

God

(A.S. and Dutch God; DA Gud; Ger. Gott), the name of the Divine Being. It is the rendering (1) of the Hebrew 'El, from a word meaning to be strong; (2) of 'Eloah, plural 'Elohim. The singular form, Eloah, is used only in poetry. The plural form is more commonly used in all parts of the Bible. The Hebrew word Jehovah (q.v.), the only other word generally employed to denote the Supreme Being, is uniformly rendered in the Authorized Version by "LORD," printed in small capitals. The existence of God is taken for granted in the Bible. There is nowhere any argument to prove it. He who disbelieves this truth is spoken of as one devoid of understanding (Ps 14:1).

The arguments generally adduced by theologians in proof of the being of God are:

- (1.) The a priori argument, which is the testimony afforded by reason.
- (2.) The a posteriori argument, by which we proceed logically from the facts of experience to causes. These arguments are,
 - (a) The cosmological, by which it is proved that there must be a First Cause of all things, for every effect must have a cause.
 - (b) The teleological, or the argument from design. We see everywhere the operations of an intelligent Cause in nature.
 - (c) The moral argument, called also the anthropological argument, based on the moral consciousness and the history of mankind, which exhibits a moral order and purpose which can only be explained on the supposition of the existence of God. Conscience and human history testify that "verily there is a God that judgeth in the earth."

The attributes of God are set forth in order by Moses in Ex 34:6,7. (see also De 6:4; 10:17; Nu 16:22; Ex 15:11; 33:19; Isa 44:6; Hab 3:6; Ps 102:26; Job 34:12.) They are also systematically classified in Re 5:12; 7:12.

God's attributes are spoken of by some as absolute, i.e., such as belong to his essence as Jehovah, Jah, etc.; and relative, i.e., such as are ascribed to him with relation to his creatures. Others distinguish them into communicable, i.e., those which can be imparted in degree to his creatures: goodness, holiness, wisdom, etc.; and incommunicable, which

cannot be so imparted: independence, immutability, immensity, and eternity. They are by some also divided into natural attributes, eternity, immensity, etc.; and moral, holiness, goodness, etc.

God

(good). Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures two chief names are used for the one true divine Being--ELOHIM, commonly translated God in our version, and JEHOVAH, translated Lord. Elohim is the plural of Eloah (in Arabic Allah); it is often used in the short form EL (a word signifying strength, as in EL-SHADDAI, God Almighty, the name by which God was specially known to the patriarchs).

Testimonies

(August 22, 2006)

Two FAQ that I either have never answered or have to answer so much it bears repeating:

- A) What is the music in the open and close of the show?.
- B) What is my purpose?
 1. Self-appointed spokesperson for biblical truth relative to Mormonism today calling out to the disaffected, the lost, the kicked-out, the suffering, the intellectuals, the artists, the sinners and the Saints who just can't believe Mormonism anymore.
 2. We think our ministry is based on some pretty sound logic.
 3. If Mormonism is true, then our ministry will pull people up from a place in the lower kingdom to a place in a middle kingdom (where Jesus dwells.) Not even a Mormon could argue with this!
 4. And if Mormonism isn't true then we're drawing people from lives of religious bondage to lives of freedom in the Lord.
 5. Either way, our approach should be considered beneficial.

PRAYER

(Tell story of LDS friend really pushing for me to come with him to one of his meetings a few years ago.) "Years ago . . ."

Sat in the back and listened to all kinds of claims of truth.

Then I watched as believers stood up and testified.

- one after the other – dozens of them:
- "It has changed my life."
- "I know . . ."
- "I know . . ."
- "I know . . ."
- "You have got to join us. It will save you. It will change you."
- "There is nothing better on earth."

Did I mention that this was a NuSkin meeting I was sitting in?

Nearly every first Sunday of every month members of the LDS church voluntarily stand up in their Church meetings and, at the foot of an open microphone, do what these men and women were doing at this multi-level marketing meeting – they bare their testimony.

What does this mean?

Bottom line: it means to testify to the truth, goodness, or beauty of something

In Mormonism it usually sounds something like this:

"I wanna bare my testimony. (tears often accompany these presentations)
I know the Church is true.
I know that God lives.
I know that Jesus is the Christ and that he gave His life for me.
I know that Joseph Smith is a prophet and He restored the true Church back to the earth today.
I know that the Book of Mormon is true.
I know that Gordon B Hinckley is a living prophet on the earth today.

I'm so grateful for (people, leaders, family, blessings, church).

A testimony is often prefaced by a personal story or a joke, depending on the skill level of the orator.

It is always closed "In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen."

Missionaries out in the world are told to bear their testimonies of the principles and doctrines they teach.

Their discussions tell them to

- Bare Testimony on keeping the Sabbath-day,
- Bear Testimony on tithing
- Bear Testimony of the Church being true.
- Bear Testimony of the blessing of obeying the Word of Wisdom.

I'm reminded of the words of a rather acerbic song-writer I know who penned:

"There's hope in the words,
and emotion in the eyes,
it's so easy to be mislead by the sad and gentle guise,
and like fools we trust the delivery,
but its all just drunk sincerity.
It's all just drunk sincerity.

Mormons speak of and view their testimony as though it were an actual material object which they possess.

Where Christians speak of their faith, Mormons speak of their testimony. Rarely will you ever hear an LDS leader say, "How's your faith in the Lord, Brother or Sister?" But instead they will say, "How's your testimony?" or "You still have a testimony of (blank), don't you?"

Testimonies are spoken on in Mormonism in terms of their relative strength or weakness.

“He has such a strong testimony of the Church.”

People often ask me what caused me to “lose my testimony?”

Often, members will refer to their testimony as unshaken or shaken: “It really shook my testimony for a while” or “It won’t shake my testimony at all.”

In Mormonism, a testimony that the Church is true is the equivalent to having faith in Jesus.

In other words, faith in Jesus without a testimony of the LDS Church will win a person a place in a lower kingdom whereas a strong testimony of the LDS Church will grant a person life in the highest realms of God.

In this sense, Mormonism truly does teach Joseph over Jesus.

Biblically, there is no evidence of men or women bearing a testimony the way Mormons do. Why?

Because a testimony has a different biblical application.

Nowhere does the Bible have believers testifying of ANYTHING but Jesus. Nowhere does the Bible tell us to share a testimony. What does it say: to defend and to every man give an answer. To know the Word, to search the scriptures out.

Subjective, personal testimonies common to snake oil presentations have no place in the Church.

All “testimonies” bore in the Bible were about one of three separate areas: they were either about civil matters (ie. people testifying in a court of law or legal matter) or they were in regard to GOD and His Word (the Ark of the Covenant in Exodus 25:22 is called The Ark of the Testimony) or they were about people testifying about Jesus.

Jesus.

Jesus.

A testimony, when used to prove truth is sheer madness.
It is the tool of the salesman.
A mesmerizer.

A con.

If you ask a Christian to share their “testimony” they will in all probability share how Jesus took over their life.

If you ask a Mormon to do the same, you will in all probability hear a pitch for the Church.

An active Latter-day Saint bearing testimony that the Church is true is of no more validity than my testimony that it is not.

It is simply a tool of persuasion.

Dr. Robert J. Lifton, an expert on cults and thought reform, **lists eight psychological and social methods that totalists groups (cults) use to influence and control the lives of its members.**

Words and testimonies play a significant role.

His work, *Thought Reform and the Psychology of Totalism: A Study of “Brainwashing” in China* (Chapel Hill. University of North Carolina Press, 1981) (1961; reprint ed.,)

Dr. Lifton is a distinguished professor of psychiatry and psychology at the Graduate School University Center and director of the Center on Violence and Human Survival at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York.

He held the Foundation’s Fund Research Professorship of Psychiatry at Yale University for more than two decades.

He attended Cornell University, receiving his medical degree from New York Medical College in 1948.

Here is a general overview of these eight methods: (http://www.scrippscol.edu/-ept/psych/www/girard2000/lifton_bio.html)

1. Milieu (environment) Control

- A groups control of human communication within an environment. (At an extreme, it is an attempt to even control personal thought.)
- The controlling influence over all that a believer sees, hears, reads, or even writes.

- The leaders hold long seminars, meetings, events and lectures with authority on behavior.
- The set-up and reinforcement of an 'us against them' mentality.
- The casual or official monitoring of individual change within the group.

2. Mystical Manipulation (Orchestrating events within the group).

- Extensive manipulation of attitudes and behavior.
- Promotes "patterns of emotion" which seem spontaneous but have actually been orchestrated, often unconsciously, by leaders and believers.
- Leaders claim to be agents or chosen servants of God to carry out a "mystical imperatives."
- "Principles of the organization" are placed forcibly and claimed exclusively, so that the cult and its beliefs become the only "way to truth or salvation."
- Individual believers become psychological pawns, and participate actively in manipulating others under the auspices of supporting the cause.
- Leaders central to the mystical manipulation (alive or dead) often become more real and identifiable than the notions of an abstract God and therefore often become more attractive to cult followers than God Himself.
- The "totalist group" (cult) legitimizes deceptive practices (noble lies) in the name of protecting and promoting a 'greater truth.'

3. Demands for Purity

- The world becomes split between absolute evil (the world) and absolute good (the totalist group).
- Members must continually conform to the group norm or meet increased rejection/correction.
- Tendencies toward guilt and shame are used as emotional levers to influence, control, and manipulate the actions, thoughts, and behavior of believers.
- Black and white thought of believers becomes almost impenetrable by the rational complexities of inner sensitivities and the complexities of human morality. In other words, there is a great denial of human complexity.
- A radical separation occurs between the pure/impure within the organization and the mind of the believer herself or himself.
- There is a focus on confession. A believer must confess when he or she has not conformed.

4. Confession

- Cult confession goes beyond normal religious, legal, or therapeutic expression.

Confession becomes an end in and of itself.

- Confessions are accompanied by criticism and self-criticism with a major push toward self-improvement and personal change according to totalist rules.
- Confession is seen as an act of surrendering the self to the institution.
- Confession makes the healthy balance of worth and humility impossible.
- Believers will often confess to lesser crimes while holding out other secrets (such as criticism for the cult or leadership) to gain favor and receive leadership roles as a reward.
- Believers often develop an attitude that says, "The more I accuse myself, the more I have a right to judge others," thereby feeding confessional behaviors.

5. Sacred Science

- The totalist milieu (or cult) generates an "aura of sacredness" around its doctrine, holding it up as the ultimate moral vision for the ordering of human existence.
- Questioning or criticizing basic assumptions is prohibited or condemned.
- Reverence is demanded for all accepted doctrine, the originators of the doctrine, and the present bearers of the doctrine.
- Sacred science offers considerable security to young people (or people with young hearts/minds) because it simplifies the world and answers a contemporary need to combine a sacred set of dogmatic principles with a claim to a science that embodies truth regarding human behavior and psychology.

6. Loaded Language

- The language of a cult (totalist movement) is characterized by thought-killing clichés ("Is that important to your salvation?").
- Communication occurs in all-encompassing jargon which is repetitiously used. ("I know the church is true.")
- There is a language of non thought, meaning lots of talk without any thinking.
- Words are often given new meanings so that the cultists used them differently from the outside world.

7. Doctrine over Person

- Every issue in the life of a person can be reduced to a single set of principles that have such inner coherence that a person can claim the experience of truth and actually feel it.

- Doctrine over person occurs when there is a conflict between what a believer thinks she or he is experiencing and what the group doctrine says she or he should experience.
- If a believer questions the beliefs of the group or its leaders, she or he is made to feel that there is something wrong with him or her. The question is often turned on the questioner and the questioner is questioned. The original question may never get a response.
- The assumption is always that doctrine is ultimately more valid than any aspect of actual human character or experience. All believers must submit their experience to accepted doctrinal truth.

8. Dispensing of Existence (loss of individuality to organizational modes)

- Since the group or cult has an absolutist or totalist vision of truth, those who are outside the group are evil, unenlightened, unsaved, and out-of-favor. They are enemies. In extreme cases, they do not have a right to an opinion or even to existence.
- Those outside the group can always receive the right to exist by joining the group.
- Fear manipulation, used if a believer chooses to leave the group, is implemented by claims that defectors have fallen out of favor with God, are damned, or will have something bad happen to them should they continue to pull away.
- The group is elite. The outside the world is evil.

Most Latter-day Saints I come across, when pushed, resort to their testimony. The facts always take a back seat to the testimony in the Mormon mind.

When a missionary shares his testimony with me that he knows, he just knows that Joseph Smith truly translated the Book of Mormon I share my testimony – with all the same emotive persuasion I can muster – that I know, I just know, he didn't.

The Ten Commandments

(August 29, 2006)

<p>We believe that all mankind may be saved by . . . obedience to the LAWS and ORDINANCES of the Gospel.</p> <p>This statement is one of the 13 Articles of Faith Joseph Smith offered and Mormonism today upholds.</p> <p>Last week, one of our guests – Amee – mentioned a very important biblical concept.</p> <p>It comes from James 2:10</p> <p>In other words if you go throughout your whole life and keep all of God’s Law (which would be impossible) and the day of your death you broke one point of it, you would be guilty of breaking ALL OF IT!</p> <p>The point is we are guilty of breaking God’s law when we sin, which makes any and all sin equally efficacious in separating us from God.</p> <p>What is the Law? Is it possible to keep it?</p> <p>Is our keeping “some of the Law” better than not keeping any of it?</p>	<p>“For whoever shall keep the whole law and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”</p>
<p>In general, the term “The Law” in the Bible refers to the whole body of Mosaic legislation.</p>	

There are four “areas” or aspects of “the Law” that we might consider when we think of this passage in James.

First, there’s the Law of Nature.

These verses speak of God’s Law that is written in nature. It is one way that even the savage can know that there is a God.

This Law is also written on every persons heart to some extent or another. Consider Romans 2:15 as it speaks of the Gentiles

This aspect of Natural Law binds all people at all times. It is generally designated by the term *conscience*, or our being *influenced by the moral relations of things*.

Some people suggest such Law does not exist in humanity.

I contend that everyone with senses has had a witness of the

Consider Psalms 19:1

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handy-work.

also

Romans 1:20

“For the invisible things of God from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”

Romans 2:15

Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the meanwhile accusing or else excusing one another.

supernal God through nature – the nature that surrounds them AND their own heart.

It is by this that they shall be judged if they have no other witness of God.

And this was made possible by God's grace!

Next we have "The Ceremonial Law" which under the Old Testament are the rites and ceremonies of worship.

These were the things done that "pictured" of the coming messiah and were mandatory according to God's will and direction. (Heb 7:9,11; 10:1; Eph 2:16).

Ceremonial Law was obligatory only till Christ had finished his work then it was fulfilled by the gospel.

The temple rites, the ceremony and ritual of the high priests were fulfilled in the righteousness of Jesus - His suffering, His death, and His resurrection.

It was truly finished. The ceremonies abrogated, the rites fulfilled.

Galatians 2:21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Matthew 27:50-51 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom;

All we now do and now are is through our faith and trust in Him.

Do you think you live the ceremonial law today?

You don't. You can't.

Not even if you are Jewish! They don't even offer sacrifice anymore because they don't have possession of Mount Moriah.

Ceremony died with Jesus on the cross. It – in and of itself – is meaningless to salvation.

Part of the Ceremonial Law for the COI was for a High Priest to once a year go in through the veil and offer sacrifice in the Holy of Holies, right?

Now listen to this! Listen! This speaks of the Christians relationship with God regarding bloody sacrifice and the veil

Heb 10:19-20

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh.

The flesh of Jesus became once and for all the veil by which we have access to the Father! His flesh! His blood!

Listen! Speaking of the differences between the ceremonial Law and Jesus, listen to what Hebrews says

<p>Then we have “<u>The Judicial Law</u>,” which directed the civil policy of the Hebrew nation and was often part of the Old Testament Law.</p> <p>And finally, we have “<u>The Moral Law</u>,” which is what we are going to spend these final minutes talking about.</p> <p>The Moral Law is the revealed will of God regarding human conduct. It is binding on all people to the end of time.</p> <p>It was promulgated at Sinai.</p> <p>The scriptures say:</p> <p>It is perfect (Psalms 19:7), perpetual (Matthew 5:17,18), holy (Romans 7:12), spiritual (Romans 7:14), and exceeding broad (Psalms 119:96).</p> <p>Although binding on all, we are <i>not</i> under it as a covenant of works (Galatians 3:17).</p> <p>The Jews were.</p>	<p>Hebrews 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from <u>dead works</u> to serve the living God?</p> <p>Do you see the inanity of trying to follow anything ceremonial to establish your righteousness or cleanliness? Do you see how ceremonial rites, rituals, and laws ended in Jesus?</p>
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We are under a covenant of Grace!

And it is a mockery to try and reinstitute salvation through “obedience to laws and ordinances of the Gospel.”

Listen!

The Moral Law was given for the Children of Israel as an antecedent to the sacrifice of the Lord.

And though the Ten Commandments are perfect and holy what they truly do is reveal how much is wrong with us as fallen human beings and how much we need God’s grace.

Bottom—line, the ten commandments, along with the Lords extensions of them, leave every single one of to face our supreme and ugly GUILT before God.

Before we quickly walk through the Ten Commandments, I’d like to teach you an effective way to remember them.

Then we’ll analyze them in terms of how they relate to us today.

Okay. Now, repeat after me:

Heb 10:29

Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

	<p>(TEACH THE 10 COMMANDMENTS)</p> <p>One rhymes with one, there is one God, have no other before Him.</p> <p>Two rhymes with zoo, there are statues in zoos, statues are graven images – have no graven images.</p> <p>Three rhymes with tree, trees have leaves, leaves have veins, thou shalt not take the Lord’s name in vane.</p> <p>Four rhymes with door. Doors are made of wood, wood has knots, knots fall out and leave a hole, keep the Sabbath-Day holy.</p> <p>Five rhymes with alive. You mother and father offered you life – honor your father and mother.</p> <p>Six rhymes with six shooter – don’t kill.</p> <p>Seven rhymes with heaven, you can’t go to heaven if you commit adultery.</p> <p>Eight rhymes with gates, gates are made of steel, don’t steal.</p> <p>Nine rhymes with lions, and tigers, and bears – oh, my! – don’t bare false witness.</p> <p>And ten rhymes with men – don’t covet what other men (and women) have.</p>
<p>The Ten Commandments are also known in the Greek Septuagint as “The Decalogue,” which is a Greek term meaning “the ten words” and serve as a summary of the immutable moral law of GOD.</p> <p>These commandments were first given in their written form to the</p>	

people of Israel when they were encamped at Sinai, about fifty days after they came out of Egypt.

They were written by the finger of God on two tables of stone just as God has written His laws on our hearts.

The first tables were broken by Moses when he brought them down and threw them to the ground.

At the command of God he took up into the mount two other tables, and God wrote on them "the words that were on the first tables" (Ex 34:1).

These tables were afterwards placed in the ark of the covenant (Deuteronomy 10:5; 1Kings 8:9).

We don't know where they are now, but I have been told by two very certain sources that

- 1) the LDS Church has them in the SLC holy of Holies and . . .
- 2) they are in a vast warehouse known only to Indiana Jones.

That was a joke. No emails, please.

Okay.

As a whole, the Moral Law is known as "the covenant" (Deuteronomy 4:13), and "the tables of the covenant" (De

9:9,11; Heb 9:4), and "the testimony."

As an FYI, different methods of numbering them have been adopted.

The Jews make the "Preface" one of the commandments, and then combine the first and second.

The Roman Catholics and Lutherans combine the first and second and divide the tenth into two equaling ten.

The Jews and Josephus divided them equally between the two tablets – five commands per tablet.

The Lutherans and Roman Catholics refer three commandments to the first table and seven to the second.
The Greek and Reformed Churches refer four to the first table and six to the second table.

The Samaritans add to the second that Gerizim is the mount of worship.

Commandments 1-3 address Man's relationship to God and commandments 4-10 speak to mankind's relationship with mankind.

Let's turn to Exodus 20 and

discuss how they apply to us today.

Exodus 20:1 ¶ And God spake all these words, saying,

2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Isn't that beautiful – And God spake all these words, saying

- I wonder if God really spake all these words or if this is one of those passages that wasn't translated correctly? Hmmmm?
- Who should I believe . . . the Bible or the criticisms of men . . . the Bible or the criticisms of men????

Okay! First commandment:

Are you guilty of ever having other God's before the Only true and living God?

How can you tell?

What you spend the most time and attention on is your God. What you desire most, what you speak of most, what you think of most.

Is it the God of the Bible or is it . . .

Another person?
A Church leader?
An American Idol?
A drug, food, sex?
Money? Houses, cars, vacations?
Positions? Fame? Praise of men?

Whatever it is, if it isn't God with a Big G then it's a god with a little g. And you, my friend, are in violation of the first commandment.

Which makes you GUILTY of the whole law!
EVEN IF YOU HAVE FAILED JUST ONCE.

<p>4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them.</p>	<p>Alright, number 2</p> <p>We are not supposed to make or bow down to any likeness that “is in heaven above, earth beneath, or under the water below.”</p> <p>I wonder if this includes the Christos there at temple square? HMMMM?</p> <p>Human beings long to fill the gaps in our heads. Nature abhors a vacuum.</p> <p>So we conger up images that help us focus materially on God.</p> <p>I appreciate that the church where I attend they don’t attempt to portray God or Jesus in pictures or statues.</p> <p>They allow my spirit to worship God in spirit and in truth.</p> <p>God seems to want to represent Himself to us as He is, not as we want Him to be.</p> <p>Graven images rob the human being of the opportunity to NOT confine God to some material realm.</p> <p>(Look at the recent LDS artwork of Jesus and Joseph Smith – Sunstone had a great article on it a month or two ago. They look identical.)</p>
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NUMBER 3

7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Either by swearing falsely or rashly by his Name, or by condemning it.
Of course, it is vile to use their beautiful names in blasphemous exchanges, but saying God, Jesus, Lord in conversation is not the main thrust of taking the name of God in vain.

Taking the name of God in vain is when a person says they are speaking for God and they're not.

It's when you say He wants something that he doesn't or He doesn't want something that He does.

(Years ago my wife and I were new to a stake and I received a call to meet with a member of the stake presidency. TELL STORY.)

Number four!

8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

To be honest, this is a whole other show, but let me get down to brass tacks here.

If you believe you are under the obligation of obeying the Sabbath-day, do you keep it?

(STORY OF major supermarket owner in Idaho)

"Why don't you keep your stores closed on Sunday?"

"Keep your members out of my stores on Sunday and I'll shut our doors."

I find the "Sabbath-day" a wonderful exercise

	<p>in sheer hypocrisy in Mormonism because although most LDS consider it a commandment, most LDS, at one time or another, have broken it to smithereens.</p> <p>It is either the Law or it is not!</p> <p>You cannot, without offending God Almighty, claim to obey the Sabbath-day and then break it willy-nilly because your son has a championship match or because you need some bread at the store.</p> <p>Now, I don't believe in keeping the Sabbath because of how I understand it relative to the Lord's day.</p> <p>First of all, the Sabbath day is on the last day of the week.</p> <p>Second, if you break it, you should be put to death.</p> <p>Third, it was a covenant between God and the COI.</p> <p>EXPLAIN</p> <p>OKAY. NUMBER 5</p>
<p>12 ¶ Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.</p>	<p>Have you ALWAYS honored your Father and Mother? Always?</p> <p>If you haven't you are guilty of the whole law.</p>
<p>13 Thou shalt not kill.</p>	<p>Oh. You haven't killed anyone?</p> <p>What did Jesus say about this commandment?</p>

<p>14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.</p>	<p>Mathew 5:21 ¶ Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: 22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. {Raca: that is, Vain fellow}</p> <p>Have you ever said “Raca” to someone? Have you ever gotten angry with them?</p> <p>Jesus said that getting angry places you in the same position as someone who murders another!</p> <p>Are you starting to get the picture of how guilty you are?</p> <p>NUMBER 7</p> <p>Hold onto your hats, friends. Most of the men listening have failed on this one. And more and more women in this day and age.</p> <p>What did Jesus say about this command?</p> <p>Matthew 5:27 ¶ Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.</p> <p>This is Jesus the savior talking. He said if you have lusted after a woman you have already committed adultery with her in your heart. Do you get it? This isn’t some kind of “wink, wink you’re okay, dude” warning.</p> <p>Knowing human nature, he was condemning</p>
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<p>Not one of us – especially in light of the words of Jesus – have gone through life without breaking one or all of these simple commands at one point or another.</p> <p>AND THIS IS GOD’S MORAL LAW!</p> <p>Nobody but one has ever kept it. But James said if you break any of it you are guilty of breaking all of it, right!</p> <p>Where does this leave you?</p> <p>Can you be saved by partial-sometimes-every-now and then obedience to the Law?</p> <p>Not ever.</p> <p>You are condemned from the start.</p> <p>Can you be saved by OBEDIENCE TO THE LAWS AND ORDINANCES OF THE GOSPEL?</p> <p>NEVER! EVER!</p> <p>It is a pernicious lie and you are fooling yourself if you have bought into this Old Testament regurgitation of the Law!</p> <p>Let’s conclude with some hope from the New Testament that just flies in the face of all the LDS thoughts on obedience, the Law, and salvation.</p>	
<p>Before I read these, our phone number is (801) 973-TV20</p>	

(801)973-8820.

Now listen carefully to what these verses say:

Ephesians 2:14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

15 Having abolished in his flesh the hatred, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances.

Galatians 3:22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

12 And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.

13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.

Romans 5:18 Therefore as by the offence

	<p>of one,(Adam) judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one (Jesus) the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.</p> <p>19 For as by one man's disobedience (Adam) many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one (Jesus) shall many be made righteous.</p> <p>Alright, let's go to the phones. (801) 973-8820</p>
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Baptism

(September 5, 2006)

Last week, our final caller was cut off due to time constraints but he had a question about baptism and salvation.

Is baptism necessary for salvation?
If not, why did Jesus get baptized?

Before we get into it, it's very important to remember that . . .

1. We must take the Bible as a whole, not pull pieces out and build a whole doctrine around it.
 - a. **For example: If the Bible states that God is a spirit in twenty different places, but it also describes Him in anthropomorphic terms (like "the hands of God" or "God smiles upon us") we must then understand God in terms of being a spirit and that the Jews explained Him using terms we could understand. The mistake would be discounting the Word calling Him a spirit so we could build upon verses that describe Him using familiar anthropomorphic terms.**
2. So understanding this, let's FIRST look at the Bible and what it says about salvation.

We know several MUSTS and IF'S when it comes to salvation. I'll mention a few.:

John 3:3 *We **must** be born again.*

John 14:6 *No man comes to the Father but by Jesus.*

Romans 10:9 *That **if** thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession*

is made unto salvation.

John 3:14-15

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Now some will try and say that baptism is a must to salvation. That it is frankly part and parcel of spiritual rebirth.

Bruce McConkie, noted LDS theologian said, “the second birth begins when men are legally baptized in water by a legal administrator.” Mormon Doctrine page 84.

By legal administrator, McConkie means someone who is LDS.

Listen to this quote by Orson Pratt regarding authority to baptize:

Let me take a moment and present the biblical reasons Latter-day Saints believe that baptism is needed to remit sin AND to be eligible for heaven.

In Acts 2:38 it says:

“Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

Now I mentioned that the Bible is clear on what is necessary for salvation, so how should this verse be taken in light of the word as a whole?

The key to this verse is the Greek.

“Repent and be baptized every one or you in the name of Jesus Christ FOR the remission of sins . . .”

In the Greek, “for” is eis, a preposition that can indicate causality (in order to attain) OR it is a resultant preposition (because of).

So let's read this verse with a causal preposition.

Now let's read it with the preposition being resultant.

**In Acts 2:38, the preposition is (da,da,da,dahhhh)
RESULTANT**

And so the verse could read:

**“Repent and be baptized every one of you BECAUSE
OF (or as a result of) the remission of sins!”**

This is why we get baptized my friends! Because we have been forgiven, NOT to get forgiven!

Now another verse LDS like to use to prove Baptism is necessary to be saved is:

1st Peter 3:21 ¶ The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:
Ro 10:10; Eph 5:26; Tit 3:5; 1Pe 1:3

Another is:

Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Because of these verses, the LDS and even some Christian religions have made baptism “a must” to salvation even though there are a number of verses (like Romans 10:10) that speak of being saved without any association to it.

Again, the Bible must be taken as a whole. And as a whole, we have verses that describe what people must do to be saved which don't include baptism.

What role does baptism have in the Christian life?
Is it important?

As a real clarifying moment, let me say that baptism plays the same role in the salvation of a person as

circumcision did with the Children of Israel!

Get it?

The best way to understand baptism is in terms of “identification.”

The Bible speaks of wet baptisms, dry baptisms, and even damp baptisms.

Jesus spoke of baptism as being identified with suffering.

First Corinthians speaks of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The Children of Israel were baptized unto Moses (1st Corinthians 10:2) when they crossed the Red Sea on dry ground?!

Believers are baptized in identification with the death and burial and the Body of Christ.

To Christians, baptism is an action believers take who desire to publicly be identified with Jesus Christ.

Well, say the religiously inclined, well say almost every LDS missionary who comes to your door hoping to convince you that you must not only be baptized but you must be baptized by them,

“Why was Jesus baptized if it isn’t mandatory to salvation?”

This is usually the second stronghold errant believers or Latter-day Saints turn to when trying to make baptism essential to salvation – because Jesus was baptized.

“Why was Jesus baptized?” To this I ask, “Why was He circumcised? Was circumcision, or was circumcision mandatory to salvation?”

The problem is organized religion has taken the beauty and power of baptism and applied and used it to their benefit, NOT to the benefit of the believer.

They act as if the actual baptism cleanses sin. They act as if a water ordinance is an imperative to live with God instead of presenting baptism as the beautiful expression of faith and as the identifier that it is.

Did circumcision in and of itself have any power? NO!
But it was a faithful act of “willing identification” that occurred.

Religions have not only made baptism MANDATORY for salvation, they have used it as a method of “joining” their respective Church!

Both applications fail to embrace the Biblical meaning of Baptism and both reasons smack of a means to “control and corral” believers into their own special little system of faith.

So why was Jesus baptized?

Just as there is a baptism of the Holy Spirit, and a baptism even unto Moses (1st Corinthians 10:2), there was a baptism of John the Baptist – which was a baptism unto repentance.

John's baptism was NOT a Christian baptism, nor was the baptisms that were practiced by the disciples previous to our Lord's crucifixion . . . Christian baptisms.

Till the crucifixion and resurrection, the New Testament economy did not exist. John's baptism bound its subjects to repentance, and not to the faith of Christ.

John's baptism was not administered in the name of the Trinity, and remember, AND THIS IS IMPORTANT, those whom John baptized were rebaptized by Paul (see Acts 18:24; 19:7).

Are you with me so far?

Now was this baptism of John's an empty ordinance that Jesus participated in? Never.

And here is reason #1 that Jesus was baptized: it was the initiatory ordinance of the Christian dispensation.

Now, as Christ had submitted to circumcision, which was the initiatory ordinance of the Mosaic dispensation, it was necessary that he should submit to baptism, which was instituted by no less an authority, and was the introduction to his own dispensation of eternal mercy and truth.

"Christ was circumcised, and observed all the other ordinances of the law of Moses, but not with a view to his own justification; but to fulfill the dispensation committed to him by the Lord, the God and Creator of all things."

Isn't that a good reason for Jesus being baptized?

But Jesus was also baptized for other necessary and important accounts.

**First,
Our Lord represented the final and last high priest, and was to be the high priest forever over the house of God. (if you doubt this, read Hebrews).**

Every high priest was initiated into his office by washing and anointing. So was Christ: and hence he was baptized, washed, and anointed by what? By the Holy Ghost.

Thus he fulfilled the righteous ordinance of his initiation into the office of high priest, and thus was prepared to make an atonement once and for all for the sins of mankind.

At this ordinance it seems Jesus received the Holy Spirit.

Once John had baptized Jesus, he accomplished his mission and decreased so the Lord could increase.

In this respect, Jesus "fulfilled all righteousness" (plêrôsai pâsan dikaïosunên).

In another respect, "fulfilling all righteousness" also meant fulfilling prophecy.

Jesus let John the Baptist baptize Him to fulfill the

grand design of the end and beginning of the Mosaic and Christian dispensations and to support or affirm John the Baptists ministry as referred to Malachi.

Remember?

Malachi 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall *prepare the way before me*:

In the Gospel of John we read the fulfillment of the Malachi reference:

John 1:29 ¶ The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

30 This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.

31 And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

When John baptized the Lord, God, or “He who sent Him out to baptize,” had told Him “Upon whom thou shalt see the spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptize with the Holy Ghost.”

In other words, God told John the Baptist to look for the sign of the Holy Ghost descending to know who the Messiah was.

Therefore, another reason Jesus was baptized of John was so John could identify Him with the true Messiah through seeing the Spirit descending.

Bottom-line, however, Jesus being baptized has nothing to do with it being mandatory for YOUR

salvation.

There are just far too many instances, references, and scriptural explanations of what it takes to be saved that exclude baptism.

***But . . .* let me say this: I love the Lord's commandment to be baptized. And I think it is certainly a command of God for every Christian.**

With it comes a power and a peace that is otherworldly, one I never expected prior to my ascent unto His death.

I learned a great personal lesson about the importance of true (and not ritualistic) baptism not more than four months ago.

(Tell story)

I love to see Churches that baptize without it being tied to becoming a member of that Church.

I love to see pastors baptizing faith-filled believers into the Body of Christ and not into some rigid organization.

In fact, I challenge all Latter-day Saints, if they really love Jesus, to get baptized as a public profession of faith and a willingness to follow Jesus and Jesus alone!

Call your local pastor, or any true believing Christian, and ask them to baptize you as a profession of your true love and faith in Jesus. You can have it done anywhere you would like.

What have you to fear? Certainly not the Lord. He will delight in your coming to Him in this way.

And let me tell you, you'll experience Him in ways that defy will defy R-E-L-I-G-I-O-N.

Why was Jesus baptized?

In the obvious and simple, Jesus was baptized because baptism is good and baptism is of God. It is something God expects those who follow His Son to do because baptism is good for us.

	<p>Why wouldn't Jesus get baptized? He expects His followers to do it, of course He is going to set the example.</p> <p>But in the complex, there are always many more reasons behind what Jesus did and making doctrine out of a partial understanding of it is NEVER a good thing to do.</p> <p>Alright . . .</p>
Other questions and comments we've received as of late.	
CALLER	"If I was born a homosexual aren't I damned from birth from no choice of my own?"
CALLER	"Shawn, did you experience a lot of guilt when you left the Church?"
EMAIL	<p>"On one of your shows you said you still sin yet you claim to be born-again. The following scripture says that if you are born-again you can't sin.</p> <p><i>1st JOHN 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.</i></p> <p>How do you account for your still sinning. Doesn't seem like your rebirth has done you much good.</p>
EMAIL	"If it wasn't for the Mormon church you wouldn't know half of what you know, you would be unemployed, and you would be a pot smoking alcoholic – which you probably are anyway. Why can't you just leave the Church AND leave it alone? You prove you are NOT a true Christian by the way you attack another religion."

LDS “Eccletheoculture”

(September 12, 2006)

Grew up in Huntington Beach, CA.

#1 Junior high tried to belong to the surfing crowd popular in my town. It had a culture all of its own to which I really wanted to belong.

- Long hair, shorts, flip-flops and or no socks.
- Bishop who wanted me to belong to LDS culture.
- Good heart, but a little misdirected.
- Every culture presented me with a “conform or be cast out” mentality.

#2 Teenager style continued on.

- big stake dance came to town.
- standing with all my LDS friends, same Bishop picked me out, raised my pant leg, sent me home.

Didn’t conform, was cast out.

I was embarrassed, but it planted a seed in me to start examining organized religion and the pressures and manipulations found therein.

These events, though I wasn’t aware of it at the time, ignited a personal fire from within - I wanted to know if there was a difference between God and the groups that said they represented Him.

Last week received an

unfortunate call . . .

- **friend had died unexpectedly.**
- **knew since we were kids.**
- **same ward.**
- **same Bishop.**

Attended the funeral, dressed in the same attire I wear everyday.

Decided long ago I was not going to be anything other than myself when it came to attire.

After the graveside service, the same Bishop from my youth . . .

(Tell story of Nelson)
“Nobody told me it was casual.”

(Tell Story of Kevin R.)
Later received another condescending remark regarding my personal style (or lack of it).

In the end, these were two LDS men who believed it was their place, yes, even their right, to embarrass another human being, even a friend.

What the heck leads people to be so picky and mean and frankly antithetical to what Jesus was all about?

Have you ever looked around you and said, “I’ll bet Jesus would really hate what is going on around here in His name,” or you read the New Testament and say to yourself, “The Jesus I read about is NOTHING like the one my Church says is behind all the junk they do.”

	<p>I have.</p> <p>I received an email a few weeks ago from a very nice man who was so pulled by the dichotomy in Mormonism he was about to go nuts.</p> <p>He wrote:</p> <p>(quote email)</p>
<p>Does this kind of junk go on because people believe this is what God desires, is it a result of doctrine, or is it culture?</p> <p>Let's talk about culture for a moment.</p> <p>In my book, <i>Born-again Mormon: Moving Toward Christian Authenticity</i>, we have an Appendix which includes a study from Dr. Robert J. Lifton, who is an expert on totalist methodologies and thought reform used by groups.</p>	<p>Dr. Lifton studied brainwashing in China for years and presents eight psychological and social methods that totalists groups (cults) use to influence and control the lives of their members. (<i>Thought Reform and the Psychology of Totalism: A Study of "Brainwashing" in China</i> [Chapel Hill. University of North Carolina Press, 1981] {1961;reprint ed.}).</p> <p>Dr. Lifton is a distinguished professor of psychiatry and psychology at the Graduate School University Center and director of the Center on Violence and Human Survival at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York.</p>

	<p>He previously held the Foundation's Fund Research Professorship of Psychiatry at Yale University for more than two decades.</p> <p>He attended Cornell University, receiving his medical degree from New York Medical College in 1948.</p> <p>Here is a general overview of these eight methods he found common to all groups who seek to manipulate and control the lives of others.</p> <p>Now remember, these are his findings from studying tactics used by communist China.</p> <p>1. Milieu (Environment) Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group seeks to control human communication within an environment. (At an extreme, it is an attempt to even control personal thought.) • There is controlling influence over all that a believer sees, hears, reads, or even writes. • The leaders hold long seminars, meetings, events and lectures with authority on behavior. • They set-up and reinforce an 'us against them' mentality. • The casual or official monitoring of individual change within the group.
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2. **Mystical Manipulation** (In other words, they manipulate).

- There is extensive manipulation of attitudes and behavior.
- They promote “patterns of emotion” which seem spontaneous but have actually been orchestrated, often unconsciously, by leaders and believers.
- Leaders claim to be agents or chosen servants of God to carry out a “mystical imperatives.”
- “Principles of the organization” are placed forcibly and claimed exclusively, so that the cult and its beliefs become the only “way to truth or salvation.”
- Individual believers become psychological pawns, and participate actively in manipulating others under the auspices of “supporting the cause or truth.”
- Leaders central to the mystical manipulation (alive or dead) often become more real and identifiable than the notions of

an abstract God and therefore often become more attractive to followers than God Himself.

- The “totalist group” (cult) legitimizes deceptive practices (noble lies) in the name of protecting and promoting a ‘greater truth.’

3. Demands for Purity

- The world becomes split between absolute evil (the world) and absolute good (the totalist group).
- Members must continually conform to the group norm or meet increased rejection/correction.
- Tendencies toward guilt and shame are used as emotional levers to influence, control, and manipulate the actions, thoughts, and behavior of believers.
- Black and white thought of believers becomes almost impenetrable by the rational complexities of inner sensitivities and the complexities of human morality. In other words, there is a great denial of human complexity. You are either in or you are out. It’s black. It’s

	<p>white. They deny human complexity because complexity cannot be controlled or addressed effectively. If you have complex issues, you are selfish. It is either black or white.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A radical separation occurs between the pure/impure within the organization and the mind of the believer herself or himself. • There is a focus on confession. A believer must confess when he or she has not conformed. <p>4. Confession</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cult confession goes beyond normal religious, legal, or therapeutic expression. Confession becomes an end in and of itself. • Confessions are accompanied by criticism and self-criticism with a major push toward self-improvement and personal change according to totalist rules. • Confession is seen as an act of “surrendering the self” to the institution. When you confess, it is a sign of
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	<p>conformity to the institutional demands and remorse for rebellion to it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confession makes the healthy balance of worth and humility impossible. • Believers will often confess to lesser crimes while holding out other secrets (such as criticism for the cult or leadership) to gain favor and receive leadership roles as a reward. • Believers often develop an attitude that says, "The more I accuse myself, the more I have a right to judge others," thereby feeding confessional behaviors. <p>5. Sacred Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The totalist milieu (or cult) generates an "aura of sacredness" around its doctrine, holding it up as the "ultimate moral vision for the ordering" of human existence. • Questioning or criticizing basic assumptions is prohibited or condemned. • Reverence is demanded for all accepted doctrine, the originators of the doctrine, and
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the present bearers of the doctrine.

- Sacred science offers considerable security to young people (or people with young hearts/minds) because it simplifies the world and answers a contemporary need to combine a sacred set of dogmatic principles with a claim to a science that embodies truth regarding human behavior and psychology. In other words, it is simple and makes it easy not to think or be responsible for thought.

6. Loaded Language

- The language of a totalist movement is characterized by thought-killing clichés (“Is that important to your salvation?”).
- Communication occurs in all-encompassing jargon which is repetitiously used. (“I know, I know, I know.” “The Church is perfect, the people aren’t.”)
- There is a language of non thought, meaning lots of talk without any thinking.
- Words are often given new meanings so that the group

uses them differently from the outside world.

7. Doctrine over Person

- Doctrine over person occurs when there is a conflict between what a believer thinks she or he is experiencing and what the group doctrine says she or he should experience.
- Every issue in the life of a person can be reduced to a single set of principles that have such inner coherence that a person can claim the experience of truth and actually feel it.
- If a believer questions the beliefs of the group or its leaders, she or he is made to feel that there is something wrong with him or her. The question is often turned on the questioner and the questioner is then questioned. The original question may never even get a response.
- The assumption is always that doctrine is ultimately more valid than any aspect of actual human character or experience. All believers must submit their experience to accepted doctrinal truth. In

	<p>the end, it's "Doctrine over person."</p> <p>8. Dispensing of Existence (or the loss of individuality to organizational modes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the group has an absolutist or totalist vision of truth, those who are outside the group are evil, unenlightened, unsaved, and out-of-favor. They are enemies. In extreme cases, they do not have a right to an opinion or even to existence. • Those outside the group can always receive the right to exist by joining the group. • Fear manipulation, used if believers choose to leave the group, is implemented by claims that defectors have fallen out of favor with God, are damned, or will have something bad happen to them should they continue to pull away. • The group is elite. The outside world is evil.
<p>Now listen to what the Word says about believers.</p> <p>Listen to the diversity of conditions, the liberty of existence within the body.</p>	

<p>It comes from 2nd Corinthians 6</p> <p>1 We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed: But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings; By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true; As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.</p>	
	<p>I image a religion where men and women love one another and accept one another as they are, as they come, as they desire to be known – and whether they stay in the group or not.</p> <p>I imagine a Christian religion without man-made expectations and demands, a place for scientists and artists, business men and women, homemakers and the homeless to worship and study the Word of God together in peace and truth.</p> <p>This is not utopian. This is Christianity.</p> <p>I image a Church where saints serve each</p>

	<p>other without assignment or calling, break bread together, and learn to appreciate the liberty Jesus affords.</p> <p>I imagine a Church without collars, hemlines, and suits, or other pretenses of the world. Where judgments come from God alone, and believers embrace ALL – ALL who come in through the doors.</p> <p>I imagine a Jesus would be welcome.</p> <p>Where Jesus would be welcome to sit as He is, to do as He pleases, and to love as only He knows how.</p> <p>Alright, let's go to the phones.</p>
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END NOTES AND THOUGHTS

In an effort to help readers understand the almost intangible, unwritten order of control that exists in the L.D.S. Church (note Boyd K. Packers speech with this very title) I coined the rather long and awkward word, “Eccletheo-culture”. Without meaning to offend anyone, this controlling power operates in an almost Trinitarian manner, with the three parts actually being one, and the one all-powerful essence expressed in three unique, but inter-related parts.

By definition, L.D.S. eccletheoculture is the invisible, over-riding force that governs, guides, directs and prioritizes all the social, temporal, spiritual, emotional, financial, educational, familial and intellectual aspects of a Latter-Day Saints life.

THE ECCLESIASTIC

The first part of eccletheoculture (Eccle) is derived from the word ecclesiastic, and refers to the actual physical structures, programs and priesthood leaders owned and recognized by the Church. The “Eccle” is the material of the earthly Church organization, including the actual physicality of its leadership.

Using a non-religious example for clarification, if we were discussing a national chain of bowling alleys called, Bowl USA, for example, the “Ecclesiastic” of the chain would be represented by the Bowl USA company itself and all of its corporate components, including the governing board of directors, the CEO and

CFO, vice presidents, regional managers, store managers, employees and all actual physical and/or tangible assets, including land, buildings and machinery. The Mormon Church comparative would be the prophet, apostles, seventy, Regional, Stake and Ward Leaders, as well as all the physical properties and holdings of the Church itself. The eccle of the Church is what a person can physically touch.

THE THEOLOGY

“Theo” refers to the theology and doctrine of the L.D.S. Church. Within the present-day Church, exact doctrine and theology, though at first glance may seem easy to define, is truthfully very tough to get ones arms around and hold. Reasons for this include, but are not limited to, the existence of a large, lay clergy (which is tough to police and educate), the constant directive for all members to ‘follow the Spirit’ (or the idea that the holy spirit dictates personal truth, behavior and in the end doctrine), the belief of continued revelation from God to a modern-day prophet (who has the ability to over-ride official doctrine), a belief in a canon of ancient scripture (the Bible and Book of Mormon) and modern scripture(the Doctrine and Covenants and Pearl of Great Price) and the strongly held ideal that all men and women must work out their own salvation with fear and trembling, which leaves considerable room for personal and ecclesiastical interpretation of what some Saints might consider hard and fast doctrinal positions. A fairly simple example of this might be found in the Latter-Day Saint doctrinal position on Sabbath-Day activities.

While both general recommendations and specific commands have been made regarding approved Sabbath-Day activities for the Saints, there are few absolute theological “rights or wrongs” promulgated by scripture or Salt Lake Leadership regarding the topic. There are warnings, cautions, and considerations, but there are also exceptions, and in the end, every person is free to interpret these rules according to the dictates of their own conscience. So while some Latter-Day Families are chided for certain Sabbath day activities others are praised.** (note on L.D.S. celebrities, athletes and business icons)

As a result, some Saints will not do anything on Sunday’s but go to church, read scripture, pray and maybe visit the sick, while others, even those in high ecclesiastical positions, will watch television, travel, dine out or spend the day with family in the park. The point is, with nearly every assumed doctrinal stance within L.D.S. theology, there are exceptions, revisions and an element of personal interpretation that often takes the doctrinal stance and manipulates the rules.** (do an ‘even the Word of Wisdom, the Saints most recognized doctrinal stance, is open to interpretation).

In our bowling alley example, the 'Theo' would be the rules of the game that Bowl USA has adopted for their patrons to adhere to and play by. It describes what constitutes a strike, spare, gutter-ball, foot-foul, etc. and notes how a player wins, advances, what actions would disqualify her/him, and all the parameters of accepted behaviors directly related to the playing of the game itself. Without the rules (theology) the game would not exist and neither would the Bowl USA Inc. In other words, while the theology is the reason the ecclesiastic exists, the ecclesiastic and theology presently and equally co-exist with each other. The ecclesiastic and the theology together produce the third part of the unseen force in the Church . . . the Culture.

THE CULTURE

In the national bowling chain example, "culture" is created by 1), the influence of the corporation itself (the ecclesiastic), 2) the rules of the game (theology), with the finishing touches created by those patrons who actually bowl (members). While every bowling alley in the United States generally shares a cultural 'feel' (displayed in dress, music, entertainments, ambiance, footwear, habits of consumption including alcohol, tobacco and food-stuffs) separate chains, due to the direct influence of the parent company, the manner in which the rules of the game are interpreted, and the actual people who frequent their alleys, often create their own unique sub-cultures. This is the case of the culture that exists in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Contrary to what some people believe, the culture of most Christian religions (including those striving to be Christian) have a great deal in common with each other. Most are filled with ordinary people seeking to follow God and their quest for Him is manifested in similar fashions and opinions. Immodesty is generally frowned upon and condemned, drunkenness is not appreciated, sexual sin is often punished through some means and modes of unacceptable behavior are usually corrected by ecclesiastic authority.

There generally exists in any Church Christian or seeking to be Christian, a "happy to see you, Brother or Sister" feel, some sordid gossip (wrongly) flying about, and usually a long-running feud or stand-off between one member or another.

Likewise, the cultural demands of the religious institutions themselves are also quite similar. Almost every Christian church is in constant need of better missionary outreach programs, member/believer participation, youth ministries and competent bible/scripture study leadership. Mormon Bishops and Christian Pastor/Ministers are constantly counseling, serving and seeking to uplift the fallen spirits of the sheep in their respective flocks. Every church suffers from indifference, sin, depression, illness, death, birth, elderly cares and the ability to constantly create a viable, spirit-filled Sunday worship service. In the big picture,

Christians and Mormons individually and collectively face very similar cultural situations.

Yet, with all these similarities in mind, the culture in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is remarkably unique in ways when compared to historic Christianity.

For example, when Church authority states that members of the Church should seek “wholesome activities and appearances,” and when the theology specifically states that Saints should “be in the world, but not of it;” that they should “avoid even the very appearance of evil;” the cultural body at large, under the influence of wanting to do right, zeal, tradition, bias or outright control, might interpret these messages to mean that anybody seeking full fellowship and cultural acceptance in the congregation must constantly meet certain outward levels of complicity when it comes to dress, speech, dining habits, vacation destinations, Sabbath-Day activities, entertainments, hair styles, grooming standards, conspicuous consumption, etc., etc.

If, in the Trinitarian analogy, the L.D.S. Ecclesiastic is God the Son, a tangible representation of God, and the theology is God the Father, full of all the doctrine and theology needed to live according to His will, then Culture is the Holy Spirit, and its influence is a dominating force behind all great good (and ills) within the Church.

L.D.S culture is so dominant in the Church that it is often very difficult to differentiate between it and official doctrine (hence the need for a word like Eccletheoculture). Questions like how many children a couple should have, where people should obtain a college degree, how to spend a vacation, what political party is acceptable to the Lord and what forms of entertainment, dress, dining, speech, home décor are appropriate are all addressed, in some degree or another, by L.D.S. culture. What a member chooses to follow is an entirely different matter.

The attention and allegiance a member of the Church pays to L.D.S. eccletheoculture is often viewed as indicative of his or her stalwartness in the faith and therefore, their standing before God. There have been instances where some Saints have been viewed as slacking – to God and the Church – for having their child attend the University of Utah rather than the Church’s own Brigham Young. Some Latter-Day families are ostracized for the cars they choose to own, the style and brand of their clothing and even the restaurants they frequent. Strange as it may sound, following the Churches cultural expectations is almost as important, almost as respected, by the general body of the Church, as following the doctrine. However, no aspect of the Church’s Eccletheoculture is as important as following the leadership. Latter-Day Saints believe that a person can never go wrong in following the ‘brethren’ because even if a leader was to lead a member astray, the Lord would reward them for their obedience.** (cite)

There is a way to speak in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and there is a way to pray.** (note the set formula) There is a way to teach a class and a way to deliver a speech. There is a way to look out of your eyes and there are ways to conduct business. There is an approved place to get married and approved methods of raising children. There are accepted forms of government, respected norms of behavior and rejected ideologies of men. But there is always a way.

There is a way to say every word under the sun, to manage every problem life brings, a way to look when in the bedroom, on the street or in the chapel. Every decision life requires has been answered, by the leaders, by the doctrine, or by the culture. And every member must choose to either follow these ways or face the fallout that comes from rejecting them. In the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the eccletheoculture positively and negatively rules. It's up to every member to decide for his or herself how they want to play the game.

Questions

(September 19, 2006)

Finally, tonight we're going to introduce a new addition to the show.

We're calling it, "GAMA" which stands for, "Get A Mormon Answer."

Here's how it works:

I am going to present a question to Latter-day Saints ONLY. If they want to respond with their answer they can email us and we will read the responses on the air the following week.

Please try and be concise.

Okay, this weeks GAMA question is . . .

"How did, or by what means, did Joseph Smith translate the Golden Plates?"

Email us and tell us what you believe the answer is and next week, we'll start the show off with your responses AND the actual historical facts.

Seeing and Hearing

(September 26, 2006)

(audio effect?)

GAMAGAMAGAMAGAMA!

Which stands for what? That's right –

“Get A Mormon Answer!”

Last week the GAMA question was:

“How did, or by what means, did Joseph Smith translate the Golden Plates?”

We received several emails posting their answers. I will read a few:

From _____

And From _____

The documented truth of the matter, which can be found under the notes of this show on our website, is thus:

Once Joseph and Emma were established in a small home on the property of Emma's father, translation began.

According to JS Manuscript History Joseph used “spectacles” which were included with the plates to translate some of the reformed Egyptian characters himself. These spectacles were later called the Urim and Thummim by Smith.

At this time there was a curtain or drape between Smith and anyone else in the room.

BY THE WAY

The characters JS copied from the plates are available in the archives of the Community of Christ in Independence, Missouri.

They remain undecipherable to this day but were called “reformed Egyptian” by Joseph.

Emma acted as the first scribe.

Interestingly enough, the “Reformed Egyptian” translated out into Kings English, the verbiage used in the King James Version of the Bible.

Soon Joseph discarded the “plates” to another place along with the spectacles, and moved out from behind the curtain that separated he and Emma, and began to just dictate openly.

Says Emma, in an interview with their son, Joseph Smith the III, in 1879

“In writing for Joseph Smith, I frequently wrote day after day, often sitting at the table close by him, he sitting with his face buried in his hat, with the stone in it and dictating hour after hour, with nothing between us.”

In the early spring of 1828, Martin Harris arrived in Pennsylvania and replaced Emma as scribe.

His description was the same as Emma’s – Joseph utilizing his seer stone in a hat.

As recorded in the Desert Evening News in 1881 and the Millennial Star in 1886, reporter Edward Stevenson, who interviewed Martin Harris wrote:

	<p>“By aid of the seer stone, sentences would appear and were read by the prophet and written by Martin.”</p> <p>It is VERY important to understand that Joseph Smith, prior to announcing that there were golden plates, was known in and around his community as being a buried treasure seeker and the means he used to try and locate buried treasure was the very same seer stone by which he claimed to dictate the Book of Mormon.</p> <p>When Oliver Cowdery took over as scribe in April of 1829, he described Joseph as using the spectacles again, or what they later called the Urim and Thummim.</p> <p>Those are the facts.</p> <p>Okay, LDS viewers, here’s this weeks GAMA question:</p> <p>How much time passed between the time Joseph said that there were actual Gold Plates and when he actually produced a mss. for his translation of the Book of Mormon?</p> <p>Email your concise answers to: Shawn@bornagainmormon.com</p>
Two weeks ago . . .	<p>We had a caller who presented himself as “informed and educated in the LDS religion” but who was, for all intents and purposes, blind - not only to the historical facts of Mormonism but to biblical truth.</p> <p>He purported to nearly be a “Ph.d” but was ignorant to some basic information about the religion he claimed to be true</p>

<p>Isaiah said: (Isaiah 42:18) Hear, ye deaf; and look, ye blind, that ye may see.</p> <p>Listen to the prophet Jeremiah:</p> <p>Jeremiah 5:21 Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not.</p> <p>Matthew 13:15-16 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should (1) see with their eyes, and (2) hear with their ears, and (3) should understand with their heart, (4) and should be converted, and (5) I should heal them.</p>	<p>and the essential saving truths of Jesus.</p> <p>Have you ever met a person who was blind in their heart? Who could hear but was paradoxically deaf?</p> <p>Why are some people deaf and blind to the truth when it is presented plainly to them?</p> <p>How can people have “the parts” for perception but not the ability to use them.</p> <p>In Matthew chapter 13, Jesus explains that He speaks in parables because there are those “who will not hear” and those who “will not see” - even if they are standing right in front of Him listening.</p> <p>Jesus then goes on to say why:</p> <p>A. “Heart is waxed gross.”</p>
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Romans 10:13

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have **not heard**? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

GRK= "mind has grown fat."

- B. Ears dull of hearing.
- C. Eyes have closed.

WHY? Well He gives us the answer right there!

People close their eyes and ears and let their minds grow fat so they won't:

- 1) See with their eyes.
- 2) Hear with their ears.
- 3) Understand with their heart.
- 4) Be converted.
- 5) And then be healed by Him!

Can you see and hear the process of rebirth in this?

Isn't that beautiful?

Then Jesus says to those who hear and see Him -

I have literally met hundreds of people in the course of my life – atheists, Jews, Jehovah's Witnesses, Catholics, Mormons, Buddhists, Humanists, pagans, Christians – who at some point in their existence were suddenly able to "see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand in their heart, be converted, and were then subsequently "healed by Jesus."

This is rebirth!!!!

And no matter where they have come from, they all know where they are headed and why they are headed there – JESUS.

**They SEE.
They HEAR.
They UNDERSTAND with their heart.
They are CONVERTED.
Then He HEALS them!**

The Word of God presents a number of general reasons for spiritual blindness.

I will talk about three.

The first is quite obvious – people are blind from being in the **dark**.

What kind of darkness are we talking about?

I have also met far too many people -some very good and some very evil, who do not, will not, cannot see or hear Him at all!

They are truly blind and deaf to truth!

Ephesians 6:12

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, *against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*”

I have always maintained that there are two operating systems in this world and everything is connected in one way or another to one of these two systems.

Satan’s darkness or the Lord’s light.

Where Ephesians 2:2 reads

“Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.”

John 12:46 reads

“I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not

Peter 2:9

. . . that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

abide in darkness.”

Without the Light of the World illuminating our dead spirits, we all find ourselves unable to see truth from the dark corners in which we have learned to exist, to make choices, and to perceive the world around us.

Everyone must come out of the darkness at some point in their lives and into His light.

All followers of Jesus must come out of the darkness and into His light – Mormons included.

We are not born children of light but are actually children of darkness until we come to Him and into His light.

Spiritual darkness is the domain of all things not of God.

In other words, whether you are an evil, sin-filled, predator or a patriotic, law abiding, upstanding civic leader, you are in spiritual darkness until you come out into His marvelous light.

Until you are born-again.

And outward presentations of goodness and honor are not necessarily indicative of an inward ability to see and hear the Lord.

Just remember the Pharisees of Jesus time.

<p><i>Another</i> obvious cause of spiritual blindness and deafness is sin.</p> <p>Some sins – like those of the flesh – take the participant down a road to deeper and darker levels of spiritual destruction.</p> <p>If you have lived long enough, you have seen this occur to some otherwise wonderful people.</p> <p>I hate sin because of what it does to people. It traps them. It keeps them in the dark. It destroys them.</p>	<p>Outwardly whited-sepulchures Inwardly full of dead and dried bones.</p> <p>But the sins of avarice, lust, anger, and violence only represent one category of sins that blind and deafen.</p> <p>Few things more effectively blind spiritual eyes or deafen ears than the sins of <i>pride</i>, <i>ego</i>, and <i>religious arrogance</i>.</p> <p>Where sins of fleshly carnality often lead to self-disgust, loathing, and despair, they also have the potential to lead the sinner to a state where they have no option than to scream in desperation for God.</p> <p>But the sins of religious and spiritual pride, arrogance, and ego often do more to distance a person from God than the ugly crimes of carnality weaker men might commit.</p> <p>This is what makes false teachings so threatening to truth.</p> <p>This is what makes religious piety, hypocrisy, and certainty so heinous to the spiritual senses of people.</p>
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	<p>Remember, the Pharisees were not blinded by their failures, they were blinded by their piety, their religious pride, their personal worthiness.</p> <p>And Jesus seemed to hate, attack, and dismiss this category of sin more than anything else.</p>
<p>Finally, and somewhat paradoxically, another means of spiritual blindness is counterfeit light.</p> <p>When I was about 10 years old, my parents had a pool in their backyard . . . (Tell Story)</p> <p>I was, as Springsteen so eloquently put it, “Blinded by the light.”</p> <p>(Personal Story of “Lost Years”) MELTS -Marxism - Das Kapital Communist Manifesto MELTS STORY OF Dream:</p>	<p>The scriptures allude to the idea that Satan has three forms under which he tempts or captures men and women:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He comes as a subtle serpent. 2. As a roaring lion. 3. And as an angel of light. <p>As the Subtle Serpent, Satan keeps much of the world under the oppressive control of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - dark powers as millions if not billions wander aimlessly under the control of evil empires. <p>And as a Roaring Lion, Satan seeks to captivate and devour us in our flesh. He gets us by our lust, our desires, our greed, our avarice, our weaknesses. And he drags us by our necks into his dank dens of despair and feeds upon our weaknesses as the natural consequence of our actions.</p>

<p>But I propose that as an Angel of Light, Satan is at his diabolical best and most perhaps most effective in leading people astray.</p> <p>Here, he blinds people by the light.</p> <p>Where the “subtle serpent” thrives in the false world of materialism, the humanities, and academia, and the “Roaring Lion” pins us to his power to the earth because of our lust of the flesh . . .</p> <p>. . . Satan reserves his most ingenious desensitization’s for the religiously minded:</p> <p>The capable. The strong. The organized. The accomplished.</p> <p>Where God says, “Faith in my Holy Son . . .”</p> <p>Satan blinds religionists with, “Look at how good you are!” “Look at your accomplishments!” “Look at your strength!” “Look at your numbers!”</p> <p>Blinded by the light. (801) 973-TV20 973-8820 Before we go to the phones, however, I want you to . . .</p>	
	<p>Imagine for a moment a gorgeous valley.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snow capped mountains • Crystal rivers and streams • Golden and Green meadows • Some people are walking about this

	<p>valley who look to the sky, recognize God, read and trust His Word, and pray.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are simple, they are failures. They want to do right. And they trust Jesus. <p>Now some men – whether well intention or not we do not know - get together and decide that God needs a building to be built in the heart of this valley.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A “glorious edifice.” • Earth movers come • Base electric and plumbing done. • Steel girders towering into the sky – 2000 stories high! • Walls attached • Marble and brick porticos • Leaded ornate Glass • Gorgeous hand carved interior • Climate controlled to perfection • Light controlled - glorious • Perfect habitation for all. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People begin to move into the structure. • Equipped with cafeterias, kitchens, restaurants. • System of rules are implemented with manuals distributed. • Positions of authority are made. • Portraits of authority are hung. • Pictures of the founders, originators, and sustainers dot the walls. • A culture develops. • There are do’s and don’ts. • There is an unwritten order of things. • Life inside is really good. • “Better” than life outside. Orderly. • Easier. • A whole system of security. • Truth becomes systematized. • Variance frowned upon.
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But even though things run well, and there is an appearance of freedom, there is an underlying oppression.

A general façade.

An ambiance of fantasy mixed with the inferred demands of conformity to the buildings expectations.

Those who appear perfect go to higher floors.

Those who struggle are relegated to the basement.

But here is the point:

Those inside have been blinded by the light.

Yes they feel superior. They really think they are following a better way, but in reality they cannot see or understand the liberty in Christ those have on the outside.

Now think back to those outside who simply follow and believe.

They see the building. And they see the manner of the people who exit it on occasion.

They see. They hear. They know. And their heart breaks at the façade and demands and expectations heaped upon those who are prisoners in the most glorious building ever created by man.

Brothers and Sisters, read Galatians 3:3 and tell me what it means.

“Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, they can now be made perfect by the flesh?” (Galatians 3:3)

	<p>Have you begun in the spirit, believing you can be made perfect by the flesh?</p> <p>Come outside, my friends. You have nothing to lose but your chains, and everything to gain – including your ability to see, hear, understand, convert, and be healed by Him.</p> <p>Alright, let's go to the phones.</p>
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Who is Jesus

~ Part 1 of 5

(October 3, 2006)

	<p>Gerald Tanner, Sandra Tanners husband of Utah Lighthouse Ministries passed away a few days ago.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- wonderful, accurate, and professional contribution to Christian apologetics.- when most people were clamoring around Hoffman's forgeries, Gerald and Sandra were one of the few not fooled or taken in.- (Website) www.UTLM.ORG- Thank you. Praise God for your work and offer prayers for your ministry and for Sandra. <p>ANNOUNCEMENT: Now this is great stuff here. Heart in the Home! Heart in the Home.</p> <p>How would you like to host your own Heart in the Home meeting?</p> <p>We were part of one last night at the McDonalds home in Sandy. It was organized by Pastor Travis Mitchell of Sandy Ridge Community Church.</p> <p>- home was filled with Christians and some LDS, and we had a hour or so to dialogue, ask and answer questions, and just talk about Christianity relative to Mormonism.</p> <p>We are willing to drive anywhere, it's free, and it will give you an opportunity to openly discuss your faith in the confines of a good Christian home with moi.</p> <p>Interested?</p>
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	shawn@bornagainmormon.com
GAMA GAME: Get a Mormon Answer:	<p>LAST WEEK: How much time elapsed between the time Joseph Smith announced that there were Golden Plates and when he actually presented a manuscript of his translation?</p> <p>Answers Received: 7 weeks 8 months 2 years 19 days</p> <p>Fact: Sept 22nd 1823 Announced plates June 1829 Produces Mss. – around 6 years</p> <p>NEXT WEEKS “GAMA” QUESTION: “The Book of Abraham came from . . .”</p>
	<p>Speaking of complaints, I’d like to read and respond to a message left on our phone lines last week.</p> <p>Caller left no name (of course) but presented some rather angry ideas. Here is what he said:</p>
<p>OKAY, LET’S GET TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER HERE.</p> <p>First and foremost, isn’t it a contradiction of terms, an oxymoron if you will, for a person to vehemently attack another for being intolerant?</p> <p>I mean, doesn’t his intolerant reaction to me and my opinions prove he practices the same intolerance he accuses me of?</p> <p>Second, the modern notion of</p>	

tolerance is fairly pathetic.

People love to flash the “intolerance card.”

But their application has little to do with the reality of what tolerance and intolerance truly is.

Is someone intolerant because they speak the truth or share facts?

If so, then I would be guilty of intolerance for saying that I think murder is wrong. Should we just “live and let live?”

You’re a molester? God be with you, brother! You stole a car? Terrific! Because I don’t want to be accused of being intolerant.

Are we guilty of evil intolerance if we say that something people believe is wrong?

If so, then all roads lead to God and all beliefs should be embraced, accepted, and praised, right!?

You’re a Satanist! Terrific. What? You believe Jesus was a fraud. Fantastic! Good for you!

Is it intolerant to publicly reject the philosophies, theologies, and practices of others – especially if those practices are said to be Christian when they are clearly not?

I wonder what the McDonald’s corporation would do if a chain of restaurants opened up and called themselves McDonald’s too, claiming that the first McDonald’s food chain had become corrupt and they were the only true and living

McDonalds?

If the McDonalds Corporation complained, sued, or argued, would they be guilty of intolerance?

Listen very carefully to my words, caller:

The LDS Church has for over 175 years stood at the door ways of our nations homes and said they are the ONLY true Church on the face of the earth.

. . . that Catholicism and Protestantism is of the devil.

. . . that other churches, pastors, and Christians have no authority to act in God's name.

That the baptisms of millions of faith-filled believers are "offensive" to God!

They have gone virtually uncontested by any real mass media response in this state for over a hundred years!

Well, not anymore. (beat – smile)

Why don't we pick on Catholics and Baptists?

Catholics and Baptists don't claim to be the only true church on earth! Catholics and Baptists believe in the Bible as the word of God! And if I had been a Catholic or Baptist I just might aim at them instead!

Why don't we pick on the Buddhists,

<p><i>and Islam, Hindus and the Jews?</i></p> <p>They don't claim to be Christian! I am so tolerant of other faiths so long as they present what they believe fairly, clearly, and honestly.</p> <p>But when it comes to biblical Christianity, I'm gonna defend it tooth and nail.</p> <p>Our scriptures tell us to "war a good warfare," "fight the good fight of faith," and to "earnestly contend for the faith" especially when it comes to establishing and supporting the Body of Christ.</p> <p>We are told to be "aware of wolves in sheep's clothing," of "angels of light bearing other gospels," and to "search the scriptures, proving and testing all things."</p> <p>These warnings are specific to COUNTERFEIT gospels – Gospels that claim to represent Jesus Christ but in the end represent religious systems!</p> <p>We in no way support acts of violence or seek to deny any LDS to their unalienable rights as a people.</p> <p>That is intolerance.</p> <p>But we will defend and clarify biblical Christianity especially in light of groups that present themselves as doing the same but don't.</p> <p>Got it, Mr. Anonymous caller guy?</p>	
<p>Wow. Tonight we are going to start</p>	

a three or four week study on guess . . . Jesus. Who is Jesus.

Considering our audience, this subject has “far reaching theological implications.”

The major complaint from Christians is that the LDS serve the “wrong Jesus.”

We are going to spend the next few minutes – and weeks – examining what this means, if anything.

In order to really understand Mormonism and it’s teachings of Jesus, let me first build a solid foundation for you.

Mormon theology does NOT begin with Joseph Smith, Jesus, or even God.

It begins with the belief in eternal, immutable laws and principles.

“Joseph Smith said, “Every principle proceeding from God is eternal and any principle which is not eternal is of the devil. The first step in the salvation of man is the laws of eternal and self existent principles.” (TPJS pg. 181)

“Self-existing principles” have no original source, were not created, and are a forerunner to even God, meaning God Himself is not the author of them, but that He is subject to them.

D&C 130:20-21 tells the LDS that when they receive a blessing from God it is by obedience to the (eternal) law upon which it is

predicated.

In addition to eternal and immutable Laws and Principles, another brick in the foundation of Mormon theology is the idea that everything that can be considered real and good is composed of matter and that matter cannot be created or destroyed.

D&C 141:7-8 states that “There is no such thing as immaterial matter.”

Early LDS apostle Parley P Pratt said

“Nothing exists which is not material. The elementary principles of the material universe are eternal; they never originated from non-entity, and they can never be annihilated. Immateriality is another name for non-entity.”

So, our LDS theology has a foundation of which two VERY important ideas are present:

- 1) Laws and Principles are uncreated and eternal, superceding even God.
- 2) Anything real is made of matter and matter cannot be created or destroyed – even by GOD!

You got that?

Now listen . . . from this, we are able to configure the origins of the Mormon Jesus. Ready?

There was once a man, who through obedience to the Eternal Laws and Principles became a God.

An Eternal Law and Principle in Mormon theology is marriage and so this man also had a wife who became a Goddess (for lack of a better word).

Progression is an eternal principle and so God and His wife, seeking to progress, looked out into yonder space and saw zillions of objects of intelligences – like little cells of intelligent lights – made of matter, since matter cannot be created or destroyed.

God and His wife gathered these intelligence orbs and formed them into spirit beings – spirit children, if you will. The best and brightest of these spirit beings was Jesus. (Gospel Principles 1986 pg. 9) He was first born in the spirit would later be the first born of God in the Flesh (which we'll cover next week).

Lucifer, Luce- Light, was also one of the first formed, and, along with the rest of God's spirit children, was a spirit brother of Jesus.

As a result, Mormons often refer to Jesus as an "Elder Brother."

The difference between you and I and Jesus, in this pre-mortal life, is "in degree, not in kind."

I am going to stop here in our examination of Who Jesus is relative to Mormonism and explain who He is relative to Christianity.

(801) 973-TV20
(801) 973-8820

Latter-day Saints understand that

Jesus is Jehovah (Yahweh) of the Old Testament, but they do not understand the full implication of His name.

Yahweh never came into being but has existed eternally as God.

How do we know this? The name itself implies it.

We know that Jesus Himself is the creator of ALL things. ALL. (Col 1:16)

Colossians 1:17 says that Jesus is “before all things and by Him all things exist.”

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the SAME, yesterday, today and forever!

John 1, remember:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God!

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

As Christians, we emphatically stand on the fact that Jesus –

- is uncreated.
- is God
- is the Alpha and Omega.
- is the creator of ALL things.

<p>- is NOT our spirit brother.</p> <p>And we maintain on this show and in our ministry that the LDS version of Jesus lowers His rightful place in our lives, eliminates worship of Him, and legitimizes His glory while fortifying the glory of Man.</p>	
<p>EXTRA BIBLICAL CONSIDERATIONS</p>	<p>From David F. Wells, <i>The Person of Christ</i>:</p> <p>If Yahweh is . . . our sanctifier (Exodus 31:13) omnipresent (Psalms 139:7-10) our peace (Judges 6:24) our righteousness (Jeremiah 23:6) our victory (Exodus 17:8-16) and our healer (Exodus 15:26)</p> <p>. . . then so is Christ all of these things (1st Corinthians 1:30; Colossians 1:27; Ephesians 2:14).</p> <p>If the Gospel is God's (1st Thessalonians 2:2) then it is also Christ's (1st Thessalonians 3:2 & Galatians 1:7).</p> <p>If the Church is God's (Galatians 1:13) then it is also Jesus' (Romans 16:16).</p> <p>God's kingdom (1st Thessalonians 2:12) is also Christ's (Ephesians 5:5).</p> <p>God's love is Christ's love. (Ephesians 1:3-5 / Romans 8:35)</p> <p>God's Word is Christ's Word. (Colossians 1:25 / 1st Thessalonians 1:8)</p> <p>God's Spirit is Christ's Spirit. (1st Thessalonians 4:8 / Phil. 1:19)</p> <p>God's peace is Christ's peace. (Galatians 5:22 / Colossians 3:15)</p>

	<p>God's day of Judgment is Christ's day of judgment. (Isaiah 13:6 / Phil. 1:6)</p> <p>God's grace is Christ's grace. (Ephesians 2:8 / 1st Thessalonians 5:28)</p> <p>God's salvation is Christ's salvation. (Colossians 1:13 / 1st Thessalonians 1:10)</p> <p>Paul said he was both God's slave and Christ's slave (Romans 1:9 / Romans 1:1)</p> <p>That to know God is to know Jesus. (Galatians 4:8 / 2nd Corinthians 4:6)</p>
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Who is Jesus

~ Part 2 of 5

(October 10, 2006)

	<p><i>"I've read a lot of books on the Church and yours is the most fair and focused I've ever seen. Tremendous insights, Shawn."</i></p> <p>FROM A CHRISTIAN: <i>"My sister is Mormon. After reading your book I have a new understanding of why she joined this church and how to speak to her about her faith."</i></p> <p>FROM A WOMAN IN CA: <i>"I read it in one day straight. Fantastic job."</i></p> <p>FROM AN LDS READER: <i>"I thought your book was uniquely informative and was surprised that at the kindness you showed to the Church. Thank you for portraying Joseph Smith realistically."</i></p>
GAMA! Get a Mormon Answer!	<p>Where did the Book of Abraham come from?</p> <p>Only a few LDS responses to this one:</p> <p><i>"Joseph received revelations as he was translating the book of Genesis. The book of Abraham was one of these revelations."</i></p> <p>AND</p> <p><i>"From ancient scrolls given to Joseph Smith from a man hoping he could translate them."</i></p>

	<p><u>The fact of the matter is this:</u></p> <p>In fact, some of the original papyri actually used by Joseph Smith to prepare the Book of Abraham were rediscovered in 1966 and translated by professional Egyptologists, who unanimously identified them as a collection of typical pagan funeral texts and have NOTHING to do with what the LDS book of Abraham says.</p> <p>Don't believe me? Good. <u>Prove me wrong!</u></p> <p>Okay, next weeks GAMA question is:</p> <p>(LDS only) <i>"What does a person have to do to live with God again?"</i></p> <p>Email your answers to: shawn@bornagainmormon.com</p>
<p>"HEART IN THE HOME"</p>	<p>Number of responses from people wanting to host a "Heart in the Home" meeting with yours truly as the guest speaker.</p> <p>What is Heart in the Home?</p> <p>You open your home up to neighbors and friends for an evening and I will attend, free of charge, and facilitate a night of questions, answers, and dialogue. The more the merrier. Christian, LDS, whatever.</p> <p>If you provide food and drinks I will arrive early! ☺</p> <p>Interested?</p> <p>shawn@bornagainmormon.com</p>

	<p>or write us at</p> <p>“Heart in the Home” 314 South Redwood Road Suite 200 Salt Lake City, UT 84014</p>
<p>Finally, receive far too many emails - and now even snail mail letters - from people wanting to argue with me about the “minutia of Mormonism.”</p> <p>Most of these communications defend the Church with rhetoric about how much “good” the Church does and how “good” the people are that are in it.</p>	<p>Let me make very clear what I said on one of our earliest shows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Not out to try and convince stalwart LDS that they need Jesus. They believe they have Him, they believe they are in His Church, and they are not usually seeking or open to the biblical message of Grace. 2) Our ministry IS for those LDS who either can’t, don’t, and won’t ever measure up as accepted and valiant Latter-day Saints. <p>Maybe you don’t buy all the stories.</p> <p>Maybe you are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a social outcast • rebellious • an artists or an intellectual <p>Maybe you</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • smoke, or drink, or have coffee at the start of your day. <p>Maybe you are</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • poor or socially unacceptable. <p>Whatever the reason, we call out to you who long to really know God but do not, who really, really want to please Him but haven't the strength. Who seek truth and have not been able to find it in Mormonism or other denominational gatherings.</p> <p>And what do we offer? Jesus. A chance at new life through Him. Peace that comes through faith in Him.</p> <p>Our message to you is Jesus is all you need and that all He wants is an unencumbered relationship with you.</p> <p>3) Finally, and like it or not, I do serve as an unofficial "gadfly" against everything that Mormonism presents as normative "Christianity" with the hope of bringing this stuff to the surface for examination so it can be known and understood. OKAY?!</p>
<p>Who is Jesus II</p>	<p>Last week we talked about the LDS theological foundations in materialism and eternal laws and principles.</p> <p>I mentioned the Mormon idea that God cannot create something out of nothing.</p> <p>In review, listen to this quote from History of the Church, vol.6, pp 310-11:</p> <p>Preaching in 1844 Joseph taught that</p> <p><i>"The mind of Man is as immortal as God Himself . . . God never did have power to create the spirit of man at all."</i></p> <p>We also discussed how LDS theology includes that Jesus was a created being,</p>

	<p>not God from the beginning, that Satan is His spiritual sibling, that we are His spiritual sibling too, and that we looked at Father and Mother in heaven and wanted bodies like theirs.</p> <p>This is where we left off.</p> <p>Now before we get to the birth of Jesus, which will probably come next week because of tonight's information, let me explain something important about the LDS idea of the pre-existence.</p>
	<p>The LDS believe that Heavenly Father presented a plan to all the hosts of heaven so that we could progress and someday be like Him. The plan included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - go to earth - get a body - learn to obey - be tried and tested and rewarded accordingly. <p>Jesus was appointed to be our savior in the event that we sinned or transgressed.</p> <p>Our spirit brother Lucifer, according to Mormon doctrine, didn't like this plan because of his pride, and he rallied the hosts of heavens together and caused a rebellion or "war in heaven."</p> <p>Lucifer lost the war in heaven, and along with 1/3rd of our spirit brothers and sisters, was cast out of heaven to become Satan and his angels respectively.</p> <p>Now God and His wife (or wives) created all these spirit children out of eternally existing matter, or intelligences.</p> <p>Listen to what LDS Apostle McConkie says about this:</p> <p><i>"In the pre-existent eternity various degrees of</i></p>

valiance and devotion to the truth were exhibited by different groups of our Father's spirit offspring. One third of the hosts of heaven came out in open rebellion and were cast out without bodies, becoming the devil and his angels (D&C 29:36-41). The other two-thirds stood affirmatively for Christ; there were no neutrals. To stand neutral in the midst of war is a philosophical impossibility. Of the two thirds that followed Christ, however, some were more valiant than others . . . those who were less valiant in the pre-existence and who thereby had certain restrictions imposed upon them during mortality are know to us as negroes."

McConkie also said: (Now LISTEN):

"Negroes in this life are denied the priesthood; under NO circumstances can they hold this delegation of authority from the Almighty (Abraham 1:20-27). The gospel message of salvation is not carried affirmatively to them (Moses 7:8-22)."

Brigham Young said:

Shall I tell you the law of God in regard to the African Race? If the white man who belongs to the chosen seed mixes his blood with the seed of Cain, the penalty, under the law of God, is DEATH ON THE SPOT. This will always be so (Journal of Discourses, Vol.10 page 110).

McConkie also said:

"The negroes are not equal with other races where the receipt of certain spiritual blessings are concerned."

As recently as last week, I had an LDS women write me and say:

“How could you NOT believe in a God who places each of us on this earth according to our valiance as spirit children in the pre-mortal life before? This is only way God could be considered fair and just! We are put on this earth in circumstances warranted by our behavior before we were born!”

In other words, in the LDS mind, the poor on this earth did something in the pre-existence to warrant their personal circumstances today.

This includes the idea that people who aren't born in the Mormon covenant were somehow less righteous than those who are born into the religion.

Let me tell you something, viewers, they believe this.

To me, in light of this stuff . . .

Prince Charles – must have been close to the Elect of God!

Rockerfellers – valiant!

McConkie – the best of the best!

And on the other hand, in my mind . . .

Ghandi must have been a relative pre-ex failure!

Helen Keller – a pre-exist reprobate!

Mother Teresa was a spiritually lacking

And **Jesus** – Hmmmm?

Now what is the Christian response to the apparent injustices that occur in life?

Why do Christians say some are born to poverty, woe, and misery while others arrive with silver spoons and boots?

Here, my friends, here is the truly plausible answer.

	<p><u>Sin.</u></p> <p>All injustice, death, deformity, ugliness, disease, and misery . . . all unfairness, and inequality and political corruptness is the straight out result of sin!</p>
	<p>Romans 5:12 <i>Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:</i></p> <p>Now the LDS claim that Adams fall was a good thing, a fall upward! That death, disease, misery, woe, pain, and Amish kids gunned down in school rooms is all for “our benefit.”</p> <p>How philosophically astute. Just pass that on to the starving in the world, and the lame, and those who didn't stand a chance from day one!</p> <p>Extreme debilitating suffering? God's will? Part of the “goodness of Adam introducing sin into the world?”</p> <p>Pure garbage!</p> <p>Christians know from the Bible that this is not the way of our grand and glorious God.</p> <p>God is not the author of death and woe.</p> <p>He is not behind disease, inequality, misery and unfair living conditions.</p> <p>He is a God of love, and goodness, and joy, and peace.</p> <p>This is why He is good.</p> <p>His desires for man was evidenced through our first parents condition – He gave them a beautiful garden and desired their fellowship, not their destruction.</p>

<p><u>(QUICKLY REMEMBER, ALL NOTES TO OUR SUBJECT ARE AVAILABLE IN DETAIL ON OUR WEBSITE)</u></p>	<p>But sin had its way and the deed to the earth was handed over by fallen Adam to Satan, the ruler of dark chaos.</p> <p>Do you see the differences of perspective here?</p> <p>And as far as skin color, Christians know that God is a marvelous and diverse creator and He gave the earth and all of His creations unique differences to beautify and give variety to the face of the earth – and to the faces of Man.</p> <p>Black is beautiful. So is yellow, and red, and white, and brown, and freckles, and port-wine birthmarks.</p> <p>These are not the curse of man, they are the blessing of a grand creator. But it is fallen Man who has made them ugly and evil in order to dominate and control others.</p> <p>God made each of us beautiful from the start.</p> <p>Before we go to the phone lines – which we'll open up right now (801) 973-TV20 / 8820, let's take a minute and examine the origins of Lucifer in the context of a pre-existence.</p> <p>As we mentioned last week, Mormonism teaches that Lucifer was the spirit brother of each of us, including Jesus.</p> <p>But the Bible teaches a very different picture of the Devil. And his beginnings were angelic.</p> <p>Angels</p> <p>a word signifying, both in the Hebrew and</p>
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Greek, a "messenger," and hence employed to denote any agent God sends forth to execute his purposes.

It is used of an ordinary messenger (Job 1:14; 1Sa 11:3; Lu 7:24; 9:52), of prophets (Isa 42:19; Hag 1:13), of priests (Mal 2:7), and ministers of the New Testament (Re 1:20).

It is also applied to such impersonal agents as the pestilence (2Sa 24:16,17; 2Ki 19:35), the wind (Ps 104:4).

But its distinctive application is to certain heavenly intelligences whom God employs in carrying on his government of the world.

The name does not denote their nature but their office as messengers.

The appearances to Abraham at Mamre (Ge 18:2,22. Comp. Ge 19:1), to Jacob at Peniel (Ge 32:24,30), to Joshua at Gilgal (Jos 5:13,15), of the Angel of the Lord, were doubtless manifestations of the Divine presence, "foreshadowings of the incarnation," revelations before the "fullness of the time" of the Son of God.

The existence and orders of angelic beings can only be discovered from the Scriptures.

Although the Bible does not treat of this subject specially, yet there are numerous incidental details that furnish us with ample information. Their personal existence is plainly implied in such passages as Ge 16:7,10,11; Jg 13:1-21; Mt 28:2-5; Heb 1:4, etc.

These superior beings are very numerous. "Thousand thousands," etc. (Da 7:10; Mt 26:53; Lu 2:13; Heb 12:22,23).

They are also spoken of as of different ranks in dignity and power (Zec 1:9,11; Da 10:13; 12:1; 1Th 4:16; Jude 1:9; Eph 1:21; Col 1:16).

As to their nature, **they are spirits** (Heb 1:14), like the soul of man, but not incorporeal. Such expressions as "like the angels" (Lu 20:36), and the fact that whenever angels appeared to man it was always in a human form (Ge 18:2; 19:1,10; Lu 24:4; Ac 1:10), and the titles that are applied to them ("sons of God," Job 1:6; 38:7; Da 3:25; comp. Da 3:28) and to men (Lu 3:38), seem all to indicate **some resemblance between them and the human race**.

Imperfection is ascribed to them as creatures (Job 4:18; Mt 24:36; 1Pe 1:12).

As finite creatures **they may fall under temptation**; and accordingly we read of "fallen angels." Of the cause and manner of their "fall" we are wholly ignorant. We know only that "they left their first estate" (Mt 25:41; Re 12:7,9), and that they are "reserved unto judgment" (2Pe 2:4).

Angels never die (Lu 20:36).

They are **possessed of superhuman intelligence and power** (Mr 13:32; 2Th 1:7; Ps 103:20).

They are **called "holy"** (Lu 9:26), **"elect"** (1Ti 5:21). The redeemed in glory are "like unto the angels" (Lu 20:36).

They are **not to be worshipped** (Col 2:18; Re 19:10).

Their functions are manifold.

(a) In the widest sense they are **agents of God's providence** (Ex 12:23; Ps 104:4; Heb 11:28; 1Co 10:10; 2Sa 24:16; 1Ch 21:16; 2Ki 19:35; Ac 12:23).

(b) They are **specially God's agents in carrying on his great work of redemption**. There is no notice of angelic appearances to man till after the call of Abraham. From that time onward there are frequent references to their ministry on earth (Gen 18; 19; Ge 24:7,40; 28:12;

32:1). They appear to rebuke idolatry (Jg 2:1-4), to call Gideon (Jg 6:11,12), and to consecrate Samson (Jg 13:3). In the days of the prophets, from Samuel downward, the angels appear only in their behalf (1Ki 19:5; 2Ki 6:17; Zech 1-6; Da 4:13,23; 10:10,13,20,21).

The Incarnation introduces a new era in the ministrations of angels. They come with their Lord to earth to do him service while here. They predict his advent (Mt 1:20; Lu 1:26-38), minister to him after his temptation and agony (Mt 4:11; Lu 22:43), and declare his resurrection and ascension (Mt 28:2-8; Joh 20:12,13; Ac 1:10,11).

They are now ministering spirits to the people of God (Heb 1:14; Ps 34:7; 91:11; Mt 18:10; Ac 5:19; 8:26; 10:3; 12:7; 27:23).

They rejoice over a penitent sinner (Lu 15:10).

They bear the souls of the redeemed to paradise (Lu 16:22); and they will be the ministers of judgement hereafter on the great day (Mt 13:39,41,49; 16:27; 24:31).

The passages (Ps 34:7; Mt 18:10) usually referred to in support of the idea that every individual has a particular guardian angel have no such meaning. They merely indicate that God employs the ministry of angels to deliver his people from affliction and danger, and that the angels do not think it below their dignity to minister even to children and to the least among Christ's disciples.

The "angel of his presence" (Isa 63:9. Comp. Ex 23:20,21; 32:34; 33:2; Nu 20:16) is probably rightly interpreted of the Messiah as the guide of his people. Others have supposed the expression to refer to Gabriel (Lu 1:19).

Lucifer was an angel created by Jesus.

LISTEN!

Ezekiel 28:11 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.

Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.

	<p><i>All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.</i></p> <p>In summary:</p> <p>God created all things by Jesus - including matter, including laws and principles.</p> <p>God created angelic beings which are of a “higher order” than man, of a different order than man, and are made in varying ranks of dignity and power.</p> <p>According to Ezekiel 28, Satan was a cherubim that fell.</p> <p>And since the incarnation, angels came to earth on special assignment – first to cater to our joint Master, even Jesus Christ, and then after His resurrection, to be ministering spirits to the people of God.</p> <p>Next week, we’re going to talk about the Fall, and the birth of Jesus.</p> <p>Okay, let’s go to the phones.</p>
CONCLUSION	<p>Last week, amidst all the complaints and argumentation, we were blessed by a call from Lucy, who stated that she had come to find strength in the Lord.</p> <p>I want you to know we pray for you Lucy, and are grateful for your taking the time to call in and share your heart.</p> <p>Also, last week, while eating breakfast, a</p>

	<p>regular viewer of ours, Bryan, came to my table and shared with me some of his great knowledge regarding dinosaurs, among other things.</p> <p>I see firsthand what is happening out there when the Lord is put first and I publicly praise Him for His will and ways, and for each of you who take the time to pray for our ministry, and to share Jesus with your neighbors.</p> <p>With you, I am humbled and thankful for Jesus.</p> <p>Again, we hope you will take part in hosting your own Heart in the Home!</p> <p>Email me at www.bornagainmormon.com</p> <p>Lucy, stay strong!</p> <p>See you next week on Heart of the Matter.</p>
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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

<p>#1) Do you see R-rated movies?</p> <p>I see anything that I am interested in seeing and I am interested in seeing good films that have value. I can't imagine leaving this earth in this day and age not having seen films like <u>Braveheart</u>, <u>Schindler's List</u>, <u>The Passion of the Christ</u>, or other great R rated films.</p> <p>Then again, I can't imagine spending a single minute in movies that do nothing for the mind like The Fast and the Furious or You Got Served or Scary Movie 3.</p>	
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<p>#2) What is your profession?</p> <p>I was a stockbroker for 12 or so years. I also designed a clothing line in Sri Lanka for a few years and also failed in a start-up internet business. I've always been a writer (or sorts) and never cared deeply about a profession but have instead spent most of my life trying to acquire knowledge, insight, and information about religion, philosophy, and some literature.</p>	
<p>#3) Who sings on at the start of the show? What are the names of the songs?</p> <p>Johnny Cash sings both songs. The open is with U2 and is called The Wanderer and the last is a remake of a Soundgarden song called, Rusty Cage.</p>	
<p>#4) How much money do you make doing the show?</p> <p>I make no money doing the show. I sleep in an office building the nights I am here and I am picked up by friends at the airport.</p> <p>My airfare is picked-up by a Church I attend in California.</p> <p>We give 2/3rds of our books away.</p>	

<p>I pay out of pocket to do the show.</p> <p>Like to say something here. We had a guy - a EXTREMELY RUDE GUY – post on our site about how the Tanners make their living off their ministry. He implied the same with us.</p> <p>You know, lawyers make their living off suing people, and doctors make their living off charging sick and ill people. Business people capitalize on unsuspecting and uninformed people and the LDS Church demands 10% for a person to be worthy to receive ordinances of exaltation. Get over it. There are far better ways to make money than writing information about Mormons.</p>	
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Who is Jesus

~ Part 3 of 5

(October 17, 2006)

On last weeks show, I said that our ministry is specifically interested in reaching those LDS who are struggling.

After the show, a man who goes by "Bob" posted a remark on our message board.

He wrote:

"It makes me sick that Shawn wants to specifically seek out those who are struggling."

Can we approach this thing genuinely? Realistically? Practically?

There is a HUGE number of people out there who meet or match one or more of the following descriptions relative to the Mormon religion:

- 1) They were born LDS, they consider themselves LDS, their family is LDS, and they have no idea what the Church even teaches.
- 2) They have fallen from Mormonism because of sin, and in their inability to measure up, they wallow in guilt, or more sin, and are certainly under a terrible social stigma as "inactive" or "fallen" LDS.
- 3) They long to know Jesus, they long for a personal relationship with God, they try, and try, and try, but never come really know His peace. But not knowing what else to do, they week after week "attend Church."
- 4) They are active, and righteous,

	<p>and diligent in their duties. Their families are clean cut and accomplished, their spouses hold important positions, and they have been obedient – and they’re dead inside. Hollow, empty sepulchers rendering service to family and friends without the slightest relationship to Jesus.</p> <p>Yes, Bob, we call out to the struggling LDS. We plead for them to see and hear. And what do we offer?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not another religion - Not a system of belief and behavior - Not even a specific church! <p>But we offer them something that once it is in place it cannot be taken – peace and joy in the Lord Jesus Christ.</p> <p>If it is wrong in your book to offer Jesus to the struggling, Bob, you need to seriously rethink the book you are getting your instructions from – and then come to Him too. There’s always room.</p>
<p>Okay, GAMA!</p>	<p>Last weeks question:</p> <p><i>What is needed for a Latter-day Saint to live with God again?</i></p> <p>Answers ranged from “accept Jesus Christ, be baptized, and follow Him” to “do everything that is required of you by Heavenly Father through His Church.”</p> <p>What does LDS doctrine say?</p> <p>(Let me read from Born-Again Mormon)</p>

	<p>Comment on the “believers continuum” that exists within the body of LDS believers.</p>
Last week	<p>Covered a continuation of the topic of the pre-mortal life.</p> <p>Discussed the LDS views of the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - War in Heaven - Blacks and the priesthood - Angels and Lucifer <p>So, in the chronology of LDS theology, God creates the earth through Jesus using pre-existing matter for those spirits who agreed with His Plan of Salvation.</p> <p>A helper in this creation was Michael the Arch-angel.</p> <p>When the earth was finished, Michael the Arch-angel became Adam, the first man on earth.</p> <p>Eve was created as a help meet for Adam.</p> <p>God gave Adam and Eve two commandments in LDS theology – two conflicting commandments.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Multiply and replenish the earth. 2) Do not eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. <p>Now Latter-day Saint theology teaches that Adam and Eve were like little children prior to partaking of the forbidden fruit from the knowledge of good and evil.</p> <p>And yet God presented them with two impossible demands.</p>

	<p>This was the first catch-22 in human history.</p> <p>For on the one hand, Adam and Eve were told to “multiply and replenish the earth” – to procreate, have children.</p> <p>But on the other hand they did not know what that meant nor did they know how to go about doing it – for lack of a better phrase.</p> <p>The only way that Adam and Eve could ever know how to multiply and replenish the earth was for them to become knowledgeable.</p> <p>And the only way for them to gain knowledge, according to LDS doctrine, was for them to transgress God and His command and eat of the forbidden tree.</p> <p>The LDS say that their actions were not sinful but a transgression because while they knew what they were told by God, they had no idea that what they were doing was wrong, per se, because they had yet to understand the difference between good and evil!</p> <p>Now, what would have happened, according to LDS teachings had Adam and Eve NOT eaten of the forbidden tree?</p> <p>They would have remained in the garden of Eden without children forever! And you and I would never have had an opportunity to come to earth and gain a body like God!</p> <p>So therefore, something had to be done. Action taken! Progress made!</p> <p>And so Eve, who was a little more</p>
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	<p>suave and street smart than Adam, could see at some point in their existence there in the garden, that they really weren't getting anywhere as a couple.</p> <p>So in an act she deemed logical, she listened to the serpent, and partook of the fruit.</p> <p>When her eyes were opened and she knew what she had done and the consequences of her actions – she was going to be cast out of the Garden and Adam would be left a lone man therein, she convinced Adam that in order for them to have children and obey God's command to procreate, he would need to be with her in life.</p> <p>Adam could see the conundrum they were in and acquiesced to Eve's predicament, taking the fruit, having his eyes opened, and thereby gaining the proper "knowledge" he needed to procreate.</p> <p>As promised, Adam and Eve were banished from the garden, the world fell into a lesser and more difficult state of existence, and death was introduced to all living things.</p> <p>But here is the important point:</p> <p>All these things opened up the door for Man to be born, to have children, to learn, to have joy, and to progress to become Gods!</p> <p>Without "the fall" there would be no human race. We would all be stuck up in heaven waiting for Father Adam and Mother Eve to somehow learn how to procreate so we could be born!</p>
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<p>The Bible teaches several things which are categorically contrary to the fables of these extra-biblical LDS presentations.</p> <p>Let's list a few:</p> <p>First, God would not give two conflicting commands knowing one was impossible to meet without breaking the other.</p> <p>Adam and Eve could have procreated and if they had questions, God would have helped them along.</p> <p>But they turned to their own wisdom, and the advice of Satan, for their answers. This has been the problem with men ever since!</p> <p>God means what He speaks. And speaks what He means.</p> <p>When God said, "Don't do this, he meant it for very good reasons."</p> <p>Christians understand that Adam and Eve could, in fact, have learned to walk, and talk, and live, and breathe, and procreate as they relied on the Lord.</p>	<p>In this light, Adam and Eve were actually heroes to humanity, doing what was needed for God's plan to initiate.</p> <p>Are you with me so far?</p> <p>Now if you are a Christian, your mind has probably in pieces all over the floor right now.</p> <p>Here's why.</p>
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He would have been their God, and they would have been His people.

But Eve tried to take a short cut.

And the Bible is perfectly clear as to why:

SHE WAS DECEIVED.

1st Timothy 2:14 *And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.*

And what about the word, "transgression."

Is this different from "sin," as the LDS claim?

1st John 3:4 *Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.*

Eve and Adam transgressed God's law, and transgression of the Law is what? Is what LDS?

It is sin!

And what does sin bring? Happiness? Joy? God's Plan of Salvation? Families? NO!

Sin brings death.

Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Adam and Eve transgressed God's law. Why? To do things their way instead of His way.

This is called sin.

Sin brings death.

1st Corinthians 15:21 *For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

Can you hear the contrasted elements here?

One Man (Adam) = DEATH
Another Man (Jesus) = Resurrection from the horrors of death!

In Adam = ALL DIE
In Christ = All are made alive.

Now in the Book of Mormon there is a passage that summarizes the idea of the “fall” for Latter-day Saints:

It says:

“Adam fell that men might be, and men are that they might have joy.”
(2nd Nephi 2:25)

In other words, “unless Adam fell, men could not “be” or exist.

And then it goes on to say that the reason Mankind exists is to “have joy” – and to the LDS, the greatest joy comes from having a posterity, or family, or children.

But what does the Bible say about Adam’s contribution to the world:

Romans 5:12-21
Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.
The parallels are clear!

Adam brought sin, death, heart-ache and misery upon Mankind.

He sold the deed to the world to Satan.

Under Adam all of us were not given opportunities on this earth, but were handed misery, woe, pain, and death.

But through Jesus death and sin were over come! (Praise God)

The deed to earth was redeemed!
(Praise God!)

And though all of us are under the

<p>condemnation of sin because of Adam, all of us can be completely free from sin under Jesus Christ. (Praise God)</p> <p>You know, the view of the fall is just one particular divergence among many that Mormonism presents to the World as “the Restored Gospel.”</p> <p>Just what does all this alternative theology amount to in the lives of people?</p> <p>Does it play into their salvation?</p> <p>Does it lead people from God?</p> <p>Does it present a counterfeit Gospel that subtly leads people to the pit of hell?</p> <p>I don’t know.</p> <p>But what I do know is this:</p> <p>The elements of Mormonism that we have discussed over the past three shows</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Are certainly not biblical. 2) Are an entirely “other gospel.” 3) Lend to an attitude that certainly alters the way people should worship and respond to the Jesus. <p>Now these have all the potential and probability of leading very good people to hell.</p>	<p>Let’s open up the phone lines and get the operators going.</p> <p>(801) 973-TV20 / 973-8820</p> <p>Make sure your tv is turned down when you come on the air.</p>
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<p>It is this result we fight against daily.</p> <p>Okay, let's go to the phones.</p>	
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Who is Jesus

~ Part 4 of 5

(October 24, 2006)

GAMA! (Get a Mormon Answer)

Last week we asked LDS to respond to:
What is Grace?

Had a few very interesting responses.

What makes the responses interesting is that the people go to great labors and detail to explain the LDS view and those views are often in opposition to what the Bible says!

Listen to Carrie T. in WVC:

“Grace is a gift given as a reward for choosing the right!”

Or how about this one from J. Allen:

“Grace is granted to men proportionately as they conform to the standards of personal righteousness that are part of the Gospel plan.”

What does the Bible say about Grace:

Romans 11:6 *And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.*

To say that grace is anyway dependent on you and/or your works, righteousness, effort, or condition is akin to saying,

“I want to give you a gift that is absolutely free and without obligation . . . but it’s going to cost you a few hundred dollars.”

. . . *OR its like saying* . . .

“She’s a little bit pregnant.”

	<p>Your either pregnant or your not. Grace is either grace or it is something else.</p> <p>Works, righteousness, personal contributions are a completely different animal relative to grace. It is grace, but it cannot be grace AND anything else.</p> <p>“And” of any sort destroys grace!”</p> <p>Read your Bible, folks! And throw out those commentaries.</p> <p>This being said, we had a very well thought out position on Grace presented by an LDS man – a brother Draney – but his explanation did not represent common LDS beliefs on the subject.</p> <p>Okay, next weeks GAMA question:</p> <p>“Does a person have to accept Joseph Smith in order to be saved?”</p> <p>This is a yes or no question. Okay</p>
<p>Remember last week, we spoke about the Fall of Adam.</p> <p>Remember all those non-biblical ideas we discussed?</p> <p>Well we left Adam and Eve there in the Garden having just sinned.</p> <p>Let’s take a moment and finish the story:</p>	<p>As a result of their actions, Adam and Eve, made aprons out of fig leaves, then tried to hide themselves in the garden from God.</p> <p>The Lord called to Adam, asking, “Where are you?”</p> <p>In response to his actions, Adam never</p>

	<p>confesses his sins, never pleads for forgiveness, never openly stands up and admits himself a sinner.</p> <p>What did he do?</p> <p>He consulted his own methods, crafted a covering out of fig leaves, then hid so as not to be seen by God, then passes the buck to Eve.</p> <p>Fig leaves are very important here as they represent Man's unwillingness to admit his lost and fallen condition.</p> <p>Think about it.</p> <p>The fig leaves were a response to his lost and sinful condition. And they were used to hide and camouflage Adam and Eve in their exposed sinful state.</p> <p>Fig leaves are representative of human excuses. They are representative of man's philosophies in place of God's will. Fig leaves are representative of man's religious attempts to appear whole.</p> <p>Fig leaves are exercises, rituals, and church memberships which serve as much as an appearance for people as anything else.</p> <p>There are two forms of hiding going on at this point of the story – Adam and Eve hiding behind their own hand-made apparel of fig leaves, and Adam and Eve hiding amongst the trees of the Garden.</p> <p>Hiding, secrecy is always related to darkness and the Father of Lies. Satan says to hide. Satan says to pretend.</p> <p>And while the fig leaves are representative of man's organized attempts to conceal himself from God, their hiding amongst the trees is</p>
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<p>Let me speak for a minute on the subject of hiding.</p> <p>Rarely a day goes by where I don't get one communication or another telling me I am going to be exposed for what I am – a lying, sinful charlatan who couldn't live up to the standards of the LDS Church and has now chosen to attack it out of bitterness and spite.</p> <p>I want you to understand a few things.</p> <p>First, I do not fear being exposed by any facts or accusations about my life.</p> <p>I was a sinful, proud man. If you have something to say, say it.</p> <p>I fear nothing anyone has to say about my behaviors. WHY?</p> <p>Because I have born-again. Forgiven. Altered. Changed by Jesus instead of trying to change myself through religion dedication.</p> <p>And pretending.</p> <p>It was only when I was LDS did I feel the need to hide and be secretive.</p> <p>Only when I was LDS did I experience the pressure to “appear” as something I was not.</p> <p>A cult of personality. A honorable priesthood holder. A portrait of authority.</p>	<p>representative of man's attempts to seek refuge behind the things of this world.</p>
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In Mormonism, it is vital to appear as if you have it all together.

As if you are “worthy.”

“Hide your sin nature behind a suit and tie of fig leaves!”

“Hide your disbelief in all the incomprehensible stories and doctrines.”

“Hide behind the trees of monetary success.”

Listen:

“When you come to the Lord, you come out into the light.”

And you are liberated by the blood, fearing nothing or no one thereafter.

Listen to this email I received just the other day:

(Read email from Roger L.)

Does this email help this man legitimize the value of the information I give out on Mormonism?

Does it make the writer feel like now he has reason not to believe the things I say?

Listen, my past sin nature has

<p>nothing to do with the facts of your religion.</p> <p>And I don't hide any more from anything.</p>	
	<p>Alright, so Adam and Eve fell, and the world has fell into the hands of Satan.</p> <p>Now, let's move forward - thousands of years forward - to the birth of the Savior from sin, even Jesus Christ.</p>
<p>This is a fascinating subject because the doctrines regarding the conception and birth of Jesus a religion supports are actually a microcosm of the spiritual world-view they maintain.</p> <p>Tonight, I'm going to address views of the Virgin Birth relative to Catholicism, Mormonism, and Christianity, in an effort to compare and contrast each religions doctrine on the Fall, Mary, and Salvation through Jesus Christ.</p>	
	<p>Let's begin with the Catholic view.</p> <p>Catholics teach that Mary was conceived immaculately. The immaculate conception was when Mary was conceived, not when Jesus was conceived!</p> <p>It is important in their doctrine that Mary was a holy vessel wherein she could then carry the Christ child. Therefore she could not have been born under sin from Adam's fall.</p> <p>To Catholics, Mary was a virgin before she conceived Jesus, she was a virgin during the gestation of Jesus, and she remained a virgin forever after the birth of Jesus.</p> <p>This makes sense relative to their continued views of Mary. She was and is the vestige of</p>

	<p>Holy Femininity. Always remaining a virgin is vital to her mystical place in the religion.</p> <p>In light of the fact they believe she was immaculately conceived and remained a bastion of virtue her entire life it is no wonder they believe prayer to her is warranted and acceptable.</p> <p>Okay, that is the Catholic view.</p> <p>Now Protestant doctrine teaches that Jesus was conceived immaculately. That Mary was a chosen vessel (but still under condemnation due to Adam's fall) and that the Holy Spirit overcame her and she conceived.</p> <p>Listen to this passages in Matthew 1 Matthew 1:18 <i>Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child <u>of the Holy Ghost</u>.</i> <i>Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: <u>for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost</u>.</i></p> <p>Remember this passage. It will be very important in a minute.</p> <p>In Protestant theology, Mary was a virgin prior to and after the gestation and birth of the Lord. However, Protestants generally agree that she then went on to have a family with Joseph, giving Jesus half brothers and sisters while He was on the earth.</p> <p>This view of the Lord's conception makes sense in light of the Biblical view of the</p>
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	<p>hypostatic union of Christ, which teaches that Jesus was 100% Man and 100% God.</p> <p>Recall Galatians 4:4 <i>But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law.</i></p> <p>Recall John 1:14 <i>And the Word (who was God) was made flesh, and dwelt among us.</i></p> <p>Jesus was both The Son of God and The Son of Man.</p> <p>Philippians 2:5-8 <i>Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.</i></p> <p>From <u>Born-Again Mormon: Moving Toward Christian Authenticity</u>:</p> <p>“Whatever a man could feel and experience, Jesus could feel and experience. And whatever God is, Jesus was. With these attributes, He becomes both our empathetic mediator before our all-good and holy God, and also All God, able to carry the weight of the world successfully, righteously, and as a manifestation of God in the flesh.</p> <p>In His humanity, he faced trials, persecution, and mockery; as God He loved those who rejected Him and carried their evil ways upon His sinless frame. As man, He knew temptation, desire, hunger, and thirst; as God He resisted evil, rebuked the Devil, and overcame the demands of the flesh. As man he ate and drank with friends and disciples, wept at the tomb of Lazarus, and accepted invitations to sit with sinners; as God he turned water into wine, multiplied fishes and loaves, raised Lazarus from the dead, and forgave the sinners’ crimes. As man he was</p>
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slapped, beaten, crowned with thorns, and rejected by His friends. He sweated in blood, was pierced through his hands and feet, was tortured as a reject, a criminal, a Sabbath-breaker, and a blasphemer. As God He endured the incomprehensible demands of justice, offered Himself in undefiled innocence, held Himself to the cross out of perfect and pure love for the sinner, and willingly accepted the full and furious wrath of our all just God for every single sin, sickness, wrong-doing, failure, and transgression that has ever occurred or ever will occur in or out of the heart of Man."

To Christians, in order for Jesus to be the perfect sacrifice, he had to come to this earth untainted by original sin. Hence the reality of the Virgin Birth.

Jesus, though 100% Man, came as the innocent Lamb, without blemish, without sin, and not under the condemnation of the Fall.

Okay, well what do the LDS maintain . . .

In LDS theology, Mary was a virgin UP UNTIL she had relations with the Father.

When you take LDS theology into account, it is consistent that Mary would have an actual physical relationship with God because:

- 1) God the Father has a body of flesh and bones.
- 2) God operates by eternal laws and principles, and therefore even He would create a son in the flesh the way all children are created in this world.
- 3) and God has wives, not a wife.

Additionally, because the Fall was not a bad event to Mormons, and man is not under condemnation the way the Bible says he is, Jesus did not need to come into the world through a miraculous means in order to avoid the stain of Adam's imputed sin.

	<p>The “elder brother” Jesus could be conceived just like everybody else - though sexual relations between God the Father and young Mary.</p> <p>Listen to the wisdom of some LDS leaders regarding this issue.</p> <p>Orson Pratt said (in The Seer, pg. 159): “If He were begotten by the Holy Ghost, He would have called <u>Him</u> his father.”</p> <p>Wow.</p> <p>In the Journal of Discourses (1:50-51) Brigham Young said:</p> <p>“When the virgin Mary conceived the child Jesus, the Father had begotten Him in His own likeness. He was not begotten by the Holy Ghost.”</p> <p>To quote the angel in Matthew:</p> <p>“ . . . for that which is conceived in her is of The Holy Ghost.”</p> <p>To quote Brigham Young again:</p> <p>“He was not begotten by the Holy Ghost.”</p> <p>Are you going to believe Brigham Young or the Bible.</p> <p>This is almost always the question in the Mormon debate.</p> <p>Brigham Young also included the idea that Mary was one of God the Father’s wives:</p> <p>(From the Desert News, October 10th 1866)</p> <p>“The man Joseph, the husband of Mary, did not, that we know of, have more than one wife, but Mary the wife of Joseph had</p>
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another husband.”

Apostle Orson Pratt taught in the Seer that it would have been unlawful for God the Father to have “overshadowed” Mary, begetting Jesus unlawfully. Therefore, they had their association in the capacity of husband and wife.

President Joseph Fielding Smith said in Doctrines of Salvation (vol. 1 page 18):

“Christ was begotten of God. He was not born without the aid of Man, and that Man was God.”

Bruce R McConkie, in the only way Bruce McConkie can, clarified the matter even more (Mormon Doctrine 1979, pp 546-547):

“Christ was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way mortal men are begotten by mortal fathers.”

He continues later in the book: (pg. 742)

“There is nothing figurative about His paternity; he was begotten, conceived, and born in the normal and natural course of events. Christ is the Son of Man, meaning that His Father (The Eternal God) is a Holy Man.”

As late as 1988, President and Prophet Ezra Taft Benson affirmed the LDS position on this matter (The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, 1988, pages 6-7):

“The body in which he (Jesus) performed his mission in the flesh was sired by that same Holy Being we worship as God, our eternal Father. Jesus was not the son of Joseph, nor was He begotten of the Holy Ghost.”

So there it is.

	<p>Where the Bible says Jesus was conceived of a virgin and was begotten of the Holy Ghost, Mormonism maintains that God the Father, a glorified man with a physical penis, made young virtuous Mary one of His wives, had intimate sexual relations with her, and sired Jesus as the result.</p> <p>If you are an LDS defender and you want to maintain there is no difference between the Jesus you admire and appreciate and the Jesus Christian's worship and adore, I think you need to review the past three shows.</p>
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Who is Jesus

~ Part 5 of 5

(October 31, 2006)

New short segment of the show:
"THE ACCUSATION ARENA"

Here I will quickly address the most common, oft repeated, accusations hurled my way from the viewing audience.

Okay, this weeks accusations come from

#1 From Shauna, an email writer:

#2 From our website Message Board,
posted by a guy who goes by Taylor:

#3 From a caller into last weeks show,
Diane in Sandy:

"It is inaccurate to use the term Mormon
Theology (not appropriate as per
Christians). Use the term Mormon
Doctrine."




Let's see . . . how can I say this Diane . . .
"What?"

#4 From another email, a writer told me to
stop using the word Mormonism.

#5 And the hottest accusations came from
people all over the place relative to my
interaction with a caller named Melissa on
last weeks show.

From the "too harsh" corner . . .

From the "way to go" corner . . .

	My view is . . .
Okay, let's get to some needed prayer . . .	
<p>Four weeks ago, we started on a journey of looking at some important elements regarding the Jesus of Christianity and the Jesus Mormonism.</p> <p>We learned that . . .</p> <p>The Jesus of Mormonism . . .</p> <p>Was a created being out of pre-existing materials. . .</p> <p></p> <p>That He was a spirit brother to both Satan and each of us.</p> <p></p> <p>We also learned that in Mormonism Jesus was conceived naturally by a sexual union between God the Father and Mary, who was one of God's wives.</p> <p></p> <p>Before we conclude our very short series about Jesus, I'd like to summarize the cumulative results these divergent beliefs in</p>	<p>But in Biblical Christianity we learn Jesus has no beginning or end.</p> <p>But the Bible says he created ALL things. All means ALL.</p> <p>But the Bible tells us Jesus became incarnate by virtue of the Holy Ghost overshadowing Mary, a beautiful wholesome virgin.</p>

<p>Mormonism produce in the lives of members.</p> <p>First, Jesus goes from being the Uncreated Creator of all things to a created being – an “Elder brother” - who was put in charge of creating the world.</p> <p>Does this make you want to worship Him more or less?</p> <p>Second, Jesus, in Mormon doctrine, had to come to the earth to gain a body. It was a must in order for Him to progress.</p> <p>Does this view create more or less appreciation for Him in your heart?</p> <p>Finally, what is the end result, the end application, the end world-view of Jesus in the collective LDS heart and mind?</p> <p>Is He “the Savior” or is He “ my savior.”</p> <p>Is He lifted higher or brought down a little lower in your esteem?</p> <p>Do you worship Him?</p>	<p>After a show a number of weeks ago I had a young woman call and really let me have it.</p> <p>“We worship Jesus in every meeting we have!” she exclaimed. “Have you ever even been a member of the Church?”</p> <p>“You don’t worship him. You’re not supposed to worship Him.”</p> <p>“That is a lie!” she almost screamed.</p> <p>“Let me read this to you. It’s from a speech given by Apostle Bruce R McConkie in</p> <hr/> <p>“Well I don’t care what was said back then, we worship Him now.”</p>
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<p>Was Jesus, as God incarnate, ever worshipped when He was on earth? Did He allow people to worship Him? Shouldn't only God be worshipped?</p> <p>Matthew 2</p> <p>Jesus is a young child, and the Wise Men finally find him at home with His mother.</p> <p>Verse 11</p>	<p>"Okay. What does that mean to you when you say you worship Jesus" I asked.</p> <p>"We ponder and appreciate the atonement."</p> <p>"What does that mean exactly?" I said.</p> <p>"It means we take time every week to sing and contemplate His atoning sacrifice."</p> <p>I said, "Our family has two Labrador retrievers. They are very intuitive and obedient dogs who revere me as their master. When I walk outside they approach me with tremendous excitement and love, but also with humble submission.</p> <p>They bow themselves down, lower their eyes, lick my hands.</p> <p>As a Latter-day Saint, do you worship Jesus like my dog worships me?"</p> <p>"That is sick," she said.</p> <p>"Then you, my friend, do not understand what worship means."</p> <p>The Greek word for worship is proskuneo (pros- koo-nea-oh).</p> <p>Kuohn is the Greek word for dog.</p> <p>Pros means to layout, to prostrate oneself in an attitude of reverence and homage.</p> <p>Proskuneo means to lick and fawn like a dog before an object of veneration.</p>
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And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him:

They PROSKUNEO'd Him.

Like dogs before their Master.

Matthew 14:33

The sea was rough. Peter ventured out in faith and walked upon it with the Lord. Then he began to sink. Jesus took Him up. And when they came into the boat the winds did immediately cease, *and they that were in the ship came and proskuneo's Him.*

They Worshipped Him. And He let them.

In John Chapter 9 a man that was born blind was healed by the Lord, and when he stood up for Jesus the elders kicked him out of the synagogue.

Verses 35-38

35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?

36 He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?

37 And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.

38 And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.

What will you do when you come face to face with the Lord?

Will you say, "I want to thank you, my Elder Brother, for your atoning sacrifice which made it possible for me to return to live with my Heavenly Father again,"

Or will you fall at his feet like a prostrate dog, and bath His feet with tears, and raise your hands in adoration, and praise Him.

With everything else put aside – do you personally possess this unbridled and unlimited devotion and worship for Jesus?

Not the savior, but your Lord, your king, your savior, your master?

If so, if there is no question, you have been born-again of God.

But if you have to "work" on getting these responses to arrive, if you have an intellectual understanding of Jesus instead of a life-altering adoration of Him, if you think praising and fawning over Him is sick, you've missed the boat big time.

One of the BIGGEST, if not THE BIGGEST failures of Mormonism is the overall lack of leading its general membership to fully realizing who Jesus is, and what He means to each one of them.

If you fell into a dark and deep cavern full of snakes, and Hila monsters, and other horrible creatures, and laid there for three days with them crawling all over you, and then watched a person risk his life to repell down and hoist your out,

you would fawn, and feign, and lick
your rescuers hands like a dog.

There is no one on this earth past or
present who has done anything
remotely close to what Jesus has
done for YOU.

You and I own Him all of our praise,
all of our devotions, all of our
allegiances . . . which should never
go to anyone else . . . ever.

Mission, Ministry, & Methods

(November 7, 2006)

<p>Last week an LDS caller named Bob claimed that the word “obeisance” is used in the Greek as a synonym for “worship.” I said not so.</p> <p>The reality? We were both right.</p> <p>Where I was focused on the word “obeisance” as not being a Greek term, which Bob said it was, Bob was focused on saying obeisance means the same as worship (proskuneo) in the Greek – we were both correct.</p> <p>There are a few key things to remember in this exchange:</p> <p>1) This side-bar had nothing to do with my point, which was the LDS do not worship Jesus.</p> <p>2) The Hebrew word for obeisance, <i>shaw-khaw</i>, and the Greek word for worship <i>proskunea</i> both mean to bow down in adoration, to raise hands, to prostrate in devotion. I believe the Greek word is most emphatic.</p> <p>When applied to Jesus in Mormonism, its still missing all together, Bob.</p>	
<p>Okay, turn to Psalms chapter 9 with me for a moment. I want to point something out that is very important today, right here in Utah.</p> <p>Hear we read David’s devotion to</p>	

<p>the Lord:</p>	<p>“I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works.”</p> <p>Let’s look at three of these phrases in the Hebrew:</p> <p>I will praise <yadah> thee,</p> <p>Yad in Hebrew means “hand.” Yada literally means lifting the hands in worship, extending the hands, raising the hands.</p> <p>O LORD <Y@hovah></p> <p>YHWH means “the self-Existent or Eternal; Jehovah, Jewish national name of God:-- Jehovah, the Lord.</p> <p>Mormons say Jehovah means the pre-incarnate, created Jesus.</p> <p>with my whole heart <leb></p> <p>leb, in Hebrew means, feelings, will, and even intellect. It is comparable to the Greek term psuche, where we get our words psyche, psychology, psychiatry, etc.</p> <p>So, to fully understand this single verse in our language, it would read something like this:</p> <p>“I will lift my hands in worship for you, oh self-existent and uncreated God of all things, and I do this with my entire being!”</p> <p>Off the I-15 is a very disturbing billboard for a movie about Joseph Smith.</p> <p>The billboard reads in bold letters:</p>
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	<p>“Praise to the Man.” Compare and contrast what David said in Psalms with this man-centered directive.</p> <p>This is just disturbing.</p>
<p>Tonight’s show should really have been done as our first show back in March.</p> <p>I’ve titled it: Mission, Methods, and Ministry.</p> <p>I hope it becomes the show we can point people to who have questions or issues about our approach.</p> <p>I apologize in advance for all the first person references but they are essential in telling the story.</p> <p>First a brief (and I’m sorry, possibly redundant) history to help set the stage.</p>	<p>I was born in Los Angeles in an LDS home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My parents were converts prior to my birth. • Served a full time mission. • Married in LA Temple. • EQ President/Seminary Teacher • High Priest – Bishopric, SHC. <p>Shortly after marriage I began a search of standard LDS writings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First LDS scripture • Then LDS History • Then critical LDS History • Philosophy • Eastern Metaphysics • Islam • Remained active all the while

- Grew disenchanted with all
- 13 years ended as a verifiable nihilist

1997 came to know the Lord at the side of a busy highway

- Gave me new life.
- Made me a man of faith.
- Changed my heart, ways, and will.

Continued on as an active LDS for four years thereafter.

Began study of the Word and had discussions with people about the questions I had had over the course of my life.

In 2001, approached the Stake President and requested to be excommunicated. I gave the following reasons:

- 1) I deserved it, and quoting Jean Paul Sartre, believed that I had “never met anyone more evil than myself.”
- 2) Had a number of issues with LDS doctrines and practices while could not be reconciled.
- 3) If I ever wanted to be a member of the LDS church, I sought to choose it on my own terms, and not by virtue of the fact that I became a member by virtue of my parents.

I demanded excommunication on these grounds and rejected any suggestions during the court proceedings that would lend to any other action.

My request was granted.

In 2002, I felt inclined to sort of summarize my views in writing as a

born-again Christian.

I wrote the book primarily for my three daughters who were still actively engaged in the LDS church.

I had no idea that they, and my wife, would ever leave the Church, but simply wanted them each to know about the Lord I had come to know apart from it.

A few people suggested that the book was worthy of publication and not being the patient “find a publishing company” kind of guy, I self published the book myself and started giving it to family and friends.

As a means to get the book out to a larger audience, I built a website to support it and sent an average of five copies out per month for the first few of years.

Word got out to the leaders of my families ward that I had written a book and had a website.

One of the most common responses I got from my LDS friends and family was to the by-line of the book: *Moving toward Christian Authenticity*.

“We are authentic Christians,” they would say. Or “the Church is Christian,” so your book is wrong from the start.

I began to listen to many LDS people, leaders, etc., claim the title Christian.

In light of what I had become and what I knew and saw in the LDS Church by comparison, I decided to take some action and push this issue to its fullest.

	<p>A couple of years had passed since my excommunication and my wife and I set up a meeting with her stake president.</p> <p>In the meeting I requested to become a member of the LDS Church again. This was 2003.</p> <p>Our Stake President was a kind and patient man and in my eyes possesses many enviable Christ-like characteristics. He gave much time and effort to see my desires through.</p> <p>We discussed in detail my testimony and the dictates of my conscience. We talked about my love for the Bible, my exuberant faith in Jesus Christ, my repentant attitude, dedication to following the commandments, willingness to live up to the Church's expectations of service and my desire to help other members know the Lord personally.</p> <p>I expressed a willingness to attend the LDS meetings faithfully and I also promised to keep my radical opinions to myself if that would help.</p> <p>I even said I would toss the book and shut the website down if that would make the difference in my becoming a member of the LDS Church <u>as a born-again Christian</u>.</p> <p>But this was not allowed.</p> <p>To be a member of the LDS Church, which claims is Christian I had to accept Joseph Smith too - completely.</p> <p>And to be allowed back into the LDS Church, I had to say that Mormonism is the only true Church on the face of the earth.</p> <p>I could not do this. And was therefore not allowed me to become a member again.</p>
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My life-changing faith and adoration of Jesus was not enough. I had to have faith in Joseph Smith as well.

Just take a minute and think about this.

The Church claims to represent Christianity on the earth today. The ONLY recognizable form of Christianity.

It claims to possess all the requirements necessary for exaltation, but in order to obtain these you must be a “member” and in order to be a member, you have to embrace Joseph Smith!

Jesus is NOT enough for them.

Mary and I thanked him for his time and trouble, offered a prayer, and said our goodbyes.

As we drove home that night Mary asked me what I thought about the whole thing.

I replied that I had done the only thing I could – I stood by my total and complete faith in Jesus Christ – that’s all I’ve got! I could not do any more or less. She agreed.

It’s frankly hard to believe that a repentant individual who professes real, undying faith in Jesus Christ, a willingness to love, obey, and serve God, and a desire to live according all of the outward demands and expectations of a religious institution would be refused baptism in the name of Christ because he would not verbally embrace or acknowledge faith in a man who founded the organization over a hundred and fifty years ago or acknowledge that the organization is the only true Christian religion on the face of the earth.

<p>A few days later, I was led to action. My journal at the time reads:</p>	<p>Perhaps most importantly, if the same questions were presented to current members of the Church, the majority of responses – the MAJORITY, if honest – would echo mine in one way or another.</p> <p>In essence, I was refused membership in the LDS Church because I am a complete Christian, because I have an expressed faith in Jesus and Jesus ALONE, and because I refuse to place or admit one iota of trust or faith in a man.</p> <p><i>“I am about to embark on a most aggressive religious battle since Luther because Jesus is not found in the hearts of the Latter-day Saints.</i></p> <p><i>Joseph is. Brigham is. The “church” is.</i></p> <p><i>“Yesterday I fasted and prayed all day for direction. The gates of hell and depression engulfed my soul for a time. I am actually afraid to some extent and, if I didn’t know the truth from first hand experience, I would run.</i></p> <p><i>May God be with me, strengthen me, support my resolve, and bathe me in patience, kindness, and love. I most certainly need it. It is either the Biblical Jesus or it is the Mormon God. Because I have experienced rebirth, I must reject the LDS attractions, and go to war.”</i></p> <p>The next year I was lead to enter the Calvary Chapel School of Ministry which I attended full time for two years.</p> <p>Toward the end of my studies the opportunity opened up for me to host this</p>
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As the ministry has grown, so have the criticisms.

The most frequent include:

#1 “You have no right to pick on another religion.”

television show (through a series of some rather unbelievable circumstances.)

This critique comes from one of three groups:

- Politically correct unbelievers/humanists.
“The all-roads lead to heaven” crowd.
- Believers who don’t know their Bibles.
- The LDS.

Let me remind you of a few important facts:

LDS founded on picking on Christianity.
Continues today.

It has virtually gone uncontested in Utah in a public forum.

Represent the unspoken, the unheard, the disenfranchised, those who are pushed into the corner because they had the nerve to question!

I have no right? I have a duty!

#2 “You have no right to speak for the Church.”

#3 Many LDS shout, “You have no right to tell me what I believe and what I don’t.”

- read email

- You are correct! And I don't pretend to know what each respective LDS person embraces and discards. But I do know what the LDS Church believes, what the doctrine is, and perhaps more importantly,

<p>#4 “You are rude and unkind to LDS callers. You get angry, you cut people off, you are not like Jesus at all.”</p>	<p>what the understanding of the doctrine is in the general membership at large.</p> <p>When I was a teenager, I began working at the beach as an ocean lifeguard in Southern California.</p> <p>I still work at the beach today when I am not here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I learned early how to work with the public. - How to use different approaches depending on the situation. <p style="padding-left: 40px;">If I was personally accosted, I learned to take such invectives in stride.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Just last week I had a man use vulgar and insulting words against me and I did nothing but smile and give him the information he sought.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">But there are times, when forceful, in-your-face communications are necessary.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Let me give you some examples:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Rescue of a person drowning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fear makes them do ridiculous things. - forceful, direct, uncompromising. - “climbing the rope” <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Pier or rocks.</p> <p>We are in the process of rescuing people from believing that a religion can save or exalt them.</p> <p>There are times that dictate courtesy and</p>
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#5 “You have been derailed from your original intentions. Get back on talking only about Jesus.”

#6 “You are just out to destroy the Church.”

times that demand abrasive and uncompromised directness.

Sometimes we are dealing with fear,
sometimes anger, sometimes blindness
and deafness.

I would no more play nice-nice with a persons salvation than I would their physical safety.

I've learned an important lesson in this ministry. This is what it is:

With the LDS, if you give an inch, they take a mile.

(Discuss)

I am out to expose Latter-day Saints to undeniable spiritual regeneration (available to them outside of the religion) and to share the beauty and strength of the Bible.

If this means destroying the “Church,” then let it fall.

The Church is an earthly institution no different than any other “ism.” It will fail you. Jesus never has nor ever will.

I care about people and their relationship with Him – period.

Do they know Him as God in the flesh?
Do they worship Him?
Do they know they are saved to live with

	<p>God by Him alone? Do they have His assurance? Do they know His Word? Are they free from the cares of this world? Do they rejoice in His finished work?</p> <p>This is the crux of our Mission, Ministry and Methods.</p> <p>I hope it lends to your understanding of why we do what we do and the way we do it.</p>
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The Sabbath

(November 14, 2006)

	<p>For those of you who aren't aware, Latter-day Saints call Sunday the "Sabbath-day," and have a number of written and unwritten rules and expectations for observing it.</p> <p>When I was a child, I remember singing a song in primary that went something like this:</p> <p>"Saturday is a special day, It's the day we get ready for Sunday! We clean the house and we shop at the store So we won't have to work until Monday. We brush our clothes and we shine our shoes and we call it our "get the work done" day! Then we trim our nails and we shampoo our hair so we can be <i>ready</i> for Sunday."</p> <p>Orthodox Jews obey the Sabbath day and I do not begrudge this one bit. So what is the issue with the LDS view of the Sabbath?</p> <p>Well what exactly is the Sabbath-day according to the Bible?</p> <p>Is it something to be trifled with?</p> <p>When did it begin, to whom was it given, and is it applicable to Christians today?</p> <p>Are there dangers in embracing Sabbath-day observances and then not keeping it?</p> <p>Is it errant to have a day of worship today?</p> <p>I am going to offer 7 concepts regarding the Sabbath day in anticipation of the most common assumptions, questions, and misinterpretations of it today.</p> <p>It is a hot topic as there is so much misunderstanding of it even in the Body of</p>
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	<p>Christ.</p> <p>Okay, first a clarification:</p>
	<p>I do not believe it is my place or any persons place to judge what people do relative to gathering, worshipping, or honoring God on a given day of the week.</p> <p>If someone wants to observe the Sabbath day, the Lord's day, the year of Jubilee, or whatever, go for it. I think God honors it.</p> <p>But I think it is important to understand the Biblical presentation of what is being observed in order to help eradicate errant impositions many religious institutions make regarding the observance of certain days in order to "honor God"</p> <p>So . . . if you follow a day, God bless you. And if you don't, well God bless you too.</p> <p>But if you impose a day on others in the name of God as being required for worthiness, well then we've got a problem.</p> <p>Okay . . .</p>
#1 There is one Sabbath-day and one only – it is on Saturday.	<p>Sunday cannot be a Sabbath-day anymore than your dog can be a cat.</p> <p>Your dog might act like a cat, purr like a cat, walk like a cat, and even eat cat food, but your dog is still a dog.</p> <p>The Sabbath is on Saturday. It has always been on Saturday and there are good biblical reasons for this – which we'll discuss.</p> <p>When a member of the LDS church says, "Do you obey the Sabbath?" and applies it to observances and actions on a Sunday, it is an misnomer at best, and a complete bastardization of God's ways at worst.</p>

Why?

Let's take a minute and examine the Day.

First, the word Sabbath means rest in Hebrew.

What does it mean? Rest.

It is associated with God's rest after He finished creating the world.

He was not tired on this day, the rest means he stopped creating. The creation was at an end. The creation was finished.

The true Sabbath goes back to what God did at the end of creation.

Genesis 2:2-3 And on the seventh day (which is Saturday) God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

But there is a very important point to understand here:

The Sabbath "rest" was NOT, I repeat, was NOT instituted at the creation.

Adam and Eve did not observe a Sabbath-day.

Why would they? What did they have to rest from in the Garden of Eden?

GOD WAS WITH THEM! And there was no labor to complete! Nothing to finish!

So why is the Sabbath-day mentioned in Genesis?

For the same reason Eve was called the "Mother of all Living" prior to her having

	<p>children, and Judas being referred to (by John) as the “betraye of Jesus” before he commits the betrayal.</p> <p>The Genesis record was written as an explanation of why there was a Sabbath, not as evidence of there being a Sabbath at the time.</p> <p>Remember Moses wrote Genesis in retrospect. He wasn’t there with Adam and Eve. And when he wrote, he tied in many things that would help explain to the Children of Israel “why?”</p> <p>How do we know this?</p> <p>Let’s read Nehemiah 9:13-14</p> <p>Speaking of God Nehemiah writes:</p> <p><i>Thou camest down also upon mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest them right judgments, and true laws, good statutes and commandments: And madest known unto them thy holy sabbath, and commandedst them precepts, statutes, and laws, by the hand of Moses thy servant.</i></p> <p>The Children of Israel observed the Sabbath after it was revealed in Genesis, but it was not practiced before Sinai.</p> <p>So let’s drop the idea that the Sabbath-day was a practice from the beginning. It wasn’t.</p>
<p>#2 But the Sabbath-day was a commandment wasn’t it?</p>	<p>Absolutely. But what was the context of the command?</p> <p>In order to fully get the gist of the Sabbath-day, first mentioned in Exodus 20, it must be seen in the context of to whom it was given:</p> <p>The Children of Israel. This is why when the</p>

	<p>practice of it is important to understanding it.</p> <p>Deuteronomy 5:1</p> <p><i>“Deuteronomy 5:1-2 And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them. The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb.”</i></p> <p>The ten commandments then begin at verse 6.</p> <p>When we read the ten commandments in their context (Exodus 19-24) they are inseparably connected with the OLD COVENANT of the Law given to the Children of Israel.</p> <p>We are now under the NEW COVENANT of grace as all the law was fulfilled in Christ in whom we live by faith.</p> <p>Heb 8:13 <i>A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.</i></p> <p>Now there are always, always people who want to burden others with aspects of the Old Covenant or the Law.</p> <p>They want there to be outward demands that make people feel inwardly holy.</p> <p>They want to impose law over grace.</p> <p>Herbert W. Armstrong of the WW Church of God emphasized the Sabbath, dietary demands, and even grooming standards for women.</p> <p>But Hebrews 10:29 explains the Lord’s view of those who attempt to reintroduce aspects of the Law as mandatory for salvation and worthiness:</p> <p><i>“Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye,</i></p>
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	<p><i>shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot <u>the Son of God</u>, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?"</i></p> <p>Now the Ten Commandments are good.</p> <p>So how do they operate under the New Covenant of Grace found by faith in the Lord Jesus?</p> <p>They are amplified in Jesus and they are made possible through Jesus.</p> <p>Let's take a few examples:</p> <p>Commandment number six: Thou shalt not kill!</p> <p>What did Jesus say about "Thou shalt not kill?"</p> <p>He said, don't even get angry (amplified) And how do we not even get angry? Through faith in Him as He paid the price for all anger Himself (made possible).</p> <p>Commit adultery?</p> <p>Don't even look upon a woman (amplified) How? Through faith in Him who carried our sin and provides strength to overcome them. (made possible by Jesus).</p> <p>All things are amplified and made possible through Him!</p> <p>HIM!</p> <p>I'll explain the Sabbath day according to this amplification and possibility made possible through Him in a moment.</p> <p>Okay, number 4</p>
#3 "But the Sabbath is said to last forever and to be perpetual!" You shout	

<p>How could it no longer be necessary?</p>	<p>In Exodus 31:16-17 God said:</p> <p><i>Therefore the sons of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant. It is a sign between Me and the sons of Israel forever. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested, and was refreshed.</i></p> <p>First, this was an agreement between Israel and God. Period.</p> <p>Secondly, if phrases like these were literally applied today to both the Christian Church and the Jews, then everything in the OT that is said to be perpetual should continue today, right?</p> <p>The burnt offerings (Exodus 29:42) Incense burnings (Exodus 20:8) Ceremonial Washings (30:21) the Passover Feast (12:14)</p> <p>And so should all the covenants and obligations of the Old Testament:</p> <p>Tithing Dietary Law Circumcision</p> <p>But the writer of Hebrews is explicit in explaining that the entire Old Covenant has been replaced by something better!</p> <p>Hebrews 8:6 <i>But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.</i></p> <p>If the New Covenant is better, the New Covenant is different.</p> <p>Old Covenant = writing on parchment</p>
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	<p>New Covenant=writing with a Word Processor.</p> <p>Is the Old still Good? Certainly. Are writings on the Old still viable? Sure. Are the words on the parchment less applicable? No.</p> <p>But is there a “better” way? Yes. Is it more advanced? Certainly. Has it replaced parchment writing? To a great extent, yes. Is it a completely new approach? Not completely. It is <i>based</i> on the method of parchment writings, but is expanded into a host of other processes and applications.</p> <p>The Old Covenant morality remains in place, but is seen through the New Covenant world view.</p> <p>Don’t kill says the sixth commandment of the Old.</p> <p>Don’t even be angry, say the new.</p>
<p># 4 But according to the Gospels, Jesus kept the Sabbath? And we should follow His perfect example!</p>	<p>You know, I have to admit, I hate it when people use Jesus as their personal puppet to manipulate others into guilt or shame for their little pet doctrines.</p> <p>If you do something they feel is wrong in their eyes, Jesus becomes their little tool:</p> <p>“Jesus would never do that.”</p> <p>But by the same token His example is ignored on issues they don’t think are important.</p> <p>Okay . . .</p> <p>Yes. Jesus observed the Sabbath. But why?</p>

Galatians 4:4-5 says:

*But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, **made under the law**, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*

Simply put, the Old Covenant did NOT end until the death of Jesus and the outpouring of the Holy Ghost at Pentecost, which is what we operate by now, not by prophets and Old Covenant observances.

During Jesus' life, the Law was still in effect, and He observed all of the requirements, so as to save all from the demands of the Law.

If Jesus did not keep the whole of the Law, even in the smallest points, he would have been disqualified as the Messiah.

The veil being torn in two at His death signified that it was finished . . . just like God was finished on the 7th day, and rested, or completed His work!

Isn't that beautiful?

Where the last day of the week was a day of rest - the Sabbath - for those under the law, Jesus said

"Come unto me **and I** will give you rest" everyday of your regenerated life!

Here Jesus amplifies the Law.
Here Jesus becomes our Sabbath, here Jesus becomes our daily rest!

And not just one day of the week but every day of the week!

In that the Jews do not yet recognize Jesus as the Messiah, and that they are under the Old Covenant demands, it only makes sense that

	<p>they continue to observe the genuine Saturday Sabbath day.</p> <p>But for Christians to try and observe this day it is unnecessary, impossible, and out of character with what being Christian truly means.</p> <p>Do you see the inanity of tying Sabbath-day observances to personal worthiness?</p> <p>Yet in light of all this, people still push to observe a Sabbath-day.</p>
<p># 5 But didn't Paul regularly go to the synagogue on the Sabbath after the New Covenant began?</p>	<p>Of course he did. Come on, now! What is the context?</p> <p>The early members of the Church were for the most part Jews. Paul went to evangelize them. Old things take time to die and new things take time to grow.</p> <p>God allows for things to pass away and grow at the same time! There is a natural overlapping and exchange that occurs when God deals with humanity.</p> <p>Remember Paul said, "to the Jew I became as a Jew, to those under the law, I became under the law so I could save some."</p> <p>And even though Paul visited the temple on the Sabbath day to reach the unconverted Jews, he continued to preach the New Covenant as a means to nourish its tender roots toward maturity.</p> <p>Regarding the Sabbath day, he writes:</p> <p>Colossians 2:16-17</p> <p><i>Therefore let no one judge you in food or in</i></p>

drink, or in respect of a holy day, or of the new moon, or of the sabbaths. For these are a shadow of things to come, but the body is of Christ.

Have you ever been judged by others based on the food you eat, the drinks you drink, or the inattention you give to a day of the week?

Ever eat out on a Sunday and find yourself getting stares . . . from other people eating out on Sunday too?

The hypocrisy kills me.

Speaking of what Jesus did by way of the cross Paul writes in verse 14 that He :

blotted “out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross.”

As an interesting and important side note, the Sabbath of the Old Covenant was not just the last day of the week, Saturday, but it also included monthly and annual rest-days.

It even included a fiftieth anniversary YEAR of rest!

Why don't the LDS practice the monthly “new Moon” Sabbath days, or the yearly Sabbatarian festivals? (according to Leviticus 25:17)?

Why don't the LDS take one full year out of fifty and celebrate the Sabbath Jubilee (verse 8-24)?

The whole premise is a blatant misapplication and misappropriation of the Law, errantly resurrected from the past, applied to the present, and used to control the spiritual lives of good people who *could*, **WHO COULD** have daily, worshipful rest in JESUS.

<p>#6 But the Bible doesn't specify an alternate day of worship for Christians?</p>	<p>Specifically, this is true. But we know a few things about meeting on the Lord's day, or first day of the week.</p> <p>First, the disciples gathered in Troas . . .</p> <p>Acts 20:7 And upon the <i>first day of the week</i>, (Sunday) when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.</p> <p>We also know that on the <i>first day of the week</i> . . .</p> <p>(John 20:19-23) Jesus first appeared to His disciples with a commission to evangelize.</p> <p>(Acts 2:1) the first gospel sermon was preached about the death and resurrection of Jesus.</p> <p>(Acts 2:41) the first converts were baptized and gathered into Christian churches.</p> <p>(1st Corinthians 16:2) that believers laid aside their gifts for the Lord's work.</p> <p>The first day of the week is traditional and has beautiful significance.</p> <p>But it is not a Sabbath-day, it comes with no legislation, and it is contrary to the covenant of Grace to assign these meanings to it.</p>
<p>#7</p>	<p>The Children of Israel were under the burden of the Law and were commanded to take a day of rest on Saturday, a month end rest, an annual rest, and a whole year rest every 49 years as part of their required "Sabbath."</p>

	<p>LDS do not practice a Sabbath according to any of its legitimate Biblical applications.</p> <p>It is ridiculous to try and seriously apply Sabbath-day observances to Christian gentiles.</p> <p>The penalty for breaking the Sabbath was death for the Children of Israel. True Sabbath day observance would include the same.</p> <p>As the last day of the week was a day rest for the Children of Israel, commemorating God's finished work in the creation and pointing to the finished work of Jesus on the cross</p> <p>Both are tied to the rest and peace of God – one by virtue of the creation, the other by virtue of His Son.</p> <p>Where the last day of the week, Saturday was looked forward to by the Jews under the Law, the first day of the week is used as a springboard for Christians today for worship, breaking bread, and fellowship. It is not required day, however, by God's law, and it is not a day of restrictions as the LDS try to make it.</p> <p>Finally, there is also something to be said about the collective LDS attempts at even keeping it, which are something quite farcical.</p> <p>The restrictions on the Children of Israel were prohibitive and confining.</p> <p>Travel, meal preparation, activities, and even motion were greatly restricted or condemned.</p> <p>None of this is obeyed by the general LDS populace.</p> <p>I've long been amused by the Sabbath manipulations that so frequently occur in LDS people concerned with the Law.</p>
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	<p>You can swim, but only in your own back yard and only with your own family.</p> <p>You can go to the store, but only if you run out of something really, really important.</p> <p>Television is okay, but only general conference . . . and the Superbowl.</p> <p>Vacation Sabbath day is a complete oxymoron, and my son made it to State finals Sabbath day is next in line.</p> <p>I've no problem with Mormonism attempting to obey the Jewish Sabbath, but based on everything we've discussed, they don't have the right lineage, they don't have the right day, they don't have the right application, and they don't exercise the right punishment for disobedience to it, and they frankly don't have the right dedication.</p> <p>But perhaps is most disturbing, is the condemnation such practices place on all who attempt to live by such Law and fail.</p> <p>James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.</p> <p>May the Covenant of Grace wash over the LDS church, and release its members to rest in Him every day of their lives and not to seek a false sense of rest on a fictitious day of the week.</p>
	<p>Other passages to consider:</p> <p>THE SABBATH YEAR OF JUBILEE Ex 23:10,11</p> <p>The commandment is to sow and reap for six years, and to let the land rest on the seventh, "that the poor of thy people may eat; and what they leave the beasts of the held shall eat. It is</p>

	<p>added in</p> <p>De 15:1</p> <p>... that the seventh Year should also be one of release to debtors.</p> <p>De 15:1-11</p> <p>Neither tillage nor cultivation of any sort was to be practiced. The sabbatical year opened in the sabbatical month, and the whole law was to be read every such year, during the feast of Tabernacles, to the assembled people. At the completion of a week of sabbatical years, the sabbatical scale received its completion in the year of jubilee. [JUBILEE] The constant neglect of this law from the very first was one of the national sins that were punished by the Babylonian captivity. Of the observance of the sabbatical year after the captivity we have a proof in 1 Macc. 6:49.</p> <p>Heb 4:1 Therefore, a promise being left to enter into His rest, let us fear lest any of you should seem to come short of it.</p> <p>2 For also the gospel was preached to us, as well as to them. But the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.</p> <p>3 For we who have believed do enter into the rest, as He said, "I have sworn in My wrath that they should not enter into My rest;" although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.</p> <p>4 For He spoke in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: "And God rested the seventh day from all His works."</p> <p>5 And in this place again, "They shall not enter into My rest."</p> <p>6 Since then it remains that some must enter into it, and since they to whom it was first preached did not enter in because of unbelief,</p> <p>7 He again marks out a certain day, saying in David, "Today," (after so long a time). Even as it is said, "Today, if you will hear His voice,</p>
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	<p>harden not your hearts."</p> <p>8 For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day.</p> <p>9 So then there remains a rest to the people of God.</p> <p>10 For he who has entered into his rest, he also has ceased from his own works, as God did from His.</p> <p>11 Therefore let us labor to enter into that rest, lest anyone fall after the same example of unbelief.</p>
<p>Conclusion:</p> <p>You know, I think every person LDS or Christian agrees that marriage, children, and family are a great blessing of the Lord.</p> <p>Just want to take a selfish moment and publicly thank my wife Mary for staying with me all these years, for caring for the girls and home while I'm home and away, and for turning her life over to the Lord.</p>	

Prophets

(November 21, 2006)

<p>Okay, GAMA! Get a Mormon Answer</p>	<p>Last weeks Question: “Why do we need a prophet today if God sent His Holy Spirit to be with all who believe?”</p> <p>RESPONSES INCLUDED:</p> <p>Today, we are going to answer these responses and more as our topic is prophets and apostles!</p> <p>Next weeks GAMA question: “As a Latter-day Saint, does Joseph Smith play a role in your salvation? Yes or no, and if yes, how?”</p>
<p>They say a lot of things about him:</p>	<p>That “He speaks for the Lord.”</p> <p>That “He is the only person on earth who holds all the authority to act in God’s name.”</p> <p>That “If you follow him, you will not go astray.”</p> <p>That “He speaks with God today as Moses spoke with God yesterday.”</p> <p>That “He is a prophet, a seer, and a revelator.”</p> <p>(Find other things they say about prophets)</p> <p>Who is he?</p>

<p>The first prophet of the LDS Church was named Joseph Smith, Jr.</p> <p>Brigham Young was second.</p> <p>Since 1830, there have been a succession of men leading the LDS Church who accept the lofty title of Prophet, Seer, and Revelator for the Church.</p> <p>The prophet, seer, and revelator of the LDS Church today is a man named Gordon B Hinckley.</p> <p>At the last LDS general conference in October, the Saints stood for him and sang:</p> <p>We thank thee, O God for a prophet, to guide us in these latter-days.</p> <p>Are prophets “like unto Moses” needed to guide believers in Jesus in “these latter-days?”</p> <p>Does the Bible support the idea that prophets like Moses and Elijah would continue to lead the Body of Christ after the death and resurrection of the Lord, supposedly speaking with God and bringing forth new revelation to the world OR is this another religious construct aimed at keeping better control of the masses while providing a tangible living substitute for the invisible God?</p> <p>From a very young age, LDS children are inculcated through</p>	<p>The LDS call him, “The prophet.”</p>
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pictures, talks, lessons, and songs, on the importance of “following the Prophet.”

They sing:

“Follow the prophet!
Follow the prophet!
Follow the prophet!
Don’t go astray- aye.
Follow the prophet!
Follow the prophet!
Follow the prophet!
He knows the way.”

It’s a powerful song.

When Cassidy could barely even talk, her Grandma was the primary chorister. She would lead the children in this song.

Being quite demonstrative and dramatic, Cassidy developed some hand gestures to go along with the music and words.

The children still do these gestures in the primary when they sing.

(show it)

Pictures, lessons, life histories, and personal stories from the lives of the LDS prophets are shown and taught more in the LDS Church collectively than pictures and stories of Jesus.

Argue all you want.
Like it or not.
It’s true. And it has got to change.

Entire years are spent learning about the modern prophet’s childhoods, families, and their most

<p>noted contributions to the building of the Church.</p>	<p>When criticized about having a modern-day prophet “like unto Moses” the LDS respond with four main arguments that justify having a prophet (and apostles) to “guide them in these Latter-days.” They are . . .</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) That it says in Amos 3:5 <i>“Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.”</i> 2) That the apostles cast lots and brought another person in (Mathias) to replace Judas as one of the Twelve (thereby showing that 12 apostles were always needed in the Church). 3) That it reads in Ephesians 4:11 <i>“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”</i> 4) Finally they use an oft repeated appeal to logic that says “God loves us as much today as He loved His children back in Moses day and therefore He would send prophets to lead and guide us today, wouldn’t he?” <p>Let’s look at these arguments - and the topic of prophets and apostles - exegetically, inductively, and by examining God’s Word contextually.</p>
<p><i>Amos 3:5 “Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he</i></p>	

revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets."

If God said in the Bible:

"Don't kill," but then in another place He said, "Kill," we would need to look at the context of the verses to understand the true meaning in each place.

It is very easy to select a passage, build an entire doctrine on it, and interpret it literally.

I was introduced to "selective and literal scripture application" which is what the LDS tend to do with the Bible, while on my LDS mission to the Amish in Harrisburg Pennsylvania.

I learned that the Amish would not chop wood because the Bible said, "What God has put together let no man tear asunder."

This is a "literal and selective" approach to interpreting and applying scripture.

Does the Lords words in Matthew 8:22

"Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead," prohibit believers from holding funerals?

If it does, you have taken a literal and selective approach to understanding the Word.

Should followers of Jesus love their families?

Because Jesus said (Luke 14:26):
If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

Should we take this literally and selectively or should we read it in context of the entire biblical message?

<p>In the context of the Book, God was about to bring judgment upon the Children of Israel because of their disobedience.</p> <p>Verse one of the chapter says:</p> <p>“Hear this word that the Lord hath spoken against you, O children of Israel . . .”</p> <p>The words that follow in Amos 3 are the words of Judgment God had Amos speak.</p> <p>The verse in question simply reminds the Children of Israel that God is not punishing them without having given them a warning first!</p> <p>It is NOT an edict that God does nothing on this earth without revealing his secrets to a prophet.</p> <p>If that were so, then Gordon B</p>	<p>Or how about one of my favorite passages found in Deuteronomy 23:1:</p> <p><i>He that is wounded in the stones, or hath his privy member cut off, shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD.</i></p> <p>Does this apply today? Can a man enter the congregation of the Lord who got hit in the stones the day before with a Frisbee or had a really messy accident with a weedeater?</p> <p>Of all the other passages about prophets in the OT, there is none like this one in Amos.</p> <p>Sound scholarship tells us to look at the verse in Amos in the context of the chapter, the book of Amos itself, the Old Testament, and the Bible as a whole.</p>
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Hinckley should be able to reveal when every individual person on earth will die – isn't that one God's secrets?

Or what about the secret to Jesus walking on water or how all the miracles occur!

Aren't those God's secrets?

Shouldn't He have revealed these secrets to a prophet?

Well, let's step back a minute. Has God ever spoken to prophets?

Certainly.

Then why not today?

For the very same reason we aren't under the law anymore.

Have you ever noticed the phrase "the Law and the Prophets" in scripture? It's everywhere in the New Testament!

Matthew 7:12 ¶ Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the Law and the prophets.

Matthew 22:40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

John 1:45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

Act 13:15 And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying . . .

	<p>Romans 3:21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by <u>the law and the prophets</u>;</p> <p>What did we say last week happened to the Law of the Old Covenant? It was fulfilled in JESUS right?</p> <p>Well what about the Prophets?</p> <p>LISTEN!</p> <p>Luke 16:16 <i>The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.</i></p> <p>We know from several places in scripture that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * both the Law and the Prophets were fulfilled in Jesus * that the office of prophet (like Moses) served its purpose * and that the term “prophet” takes on a new meaning since ascension of Jesus Christ. <p>In a moment, we’ll review FIVE proofs that will illustrate these point.</p>
<p>Alright, the LDS also say that the apostles cast lots and brought another person in (Mathias) to replace Judas as one of the twelve (thereby showing that 12 apostles were always needed in the Church).</p>	<p>To this, let me ask you, what do we know about this apostle that was brought in to replace Judas whose name was Mathias.</p> <p>What does scripture tell us about him?</p>

	<p>NOTHING AT ALL!</p> <p>I suggest we know nothing about him for a very good reason:</p> <p>He was brought in by the notions of men and not by order of God.</p> <p>Nowhere does God tell the apostles to replace Judas by limiting the choice to two men?</p> <p>Where does he tell them to casting lots to reveal His choice?</p> <p>This was a mistake of the early apostles.</p> <p>Now ask yourself, "Was another apostle brought in? He certainly was.</p> <p>How?</p> <p>By <i>God</i> calling him. Not men.</p> <p>Who was he?</p> <p>Saul of Tarsus.</p> <p>Did he personally see Jesus? Was he a first hand witness of Jesus?</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>Was he authorized by the apostles? Was he ordained by them?</p> <p>No.</p> <p>But do we read much of him and his work throughout the Word?</p> <p>Absolutely.</p> <p>Here's the point: Mathias example is not viable example because Mathias was not a viable apostle. He was put in place by the</p>
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	<p>will of Man.</p> <p>Paul was called the way all of us are called and authorized today.</p> <p>By Him and His will, not through religious form.</p>
<p>5) Third, the LDS read Ephesians 4:11 (again, literally and subjectively) and believe this supports having a prophet whom they say is like unto Moses today.</p> <p><i>“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”</i></p>	<p>A few thoughts on this:</p> <p>Every time prophets and apostles are mentioned in scripture, they are written as “Apostles and Prophets” and not “Prophets and Apostles.”</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>Because apostles have an authoritatively superior position in the Body of Christ than someone with the spiritual gift of prophecy today.</p> <p><i>1st Corinthian 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.</i></p> <p>Apostles are special witnesses of Jesus – first hand witnesses. Have the LDS apostles witnessed Jesus firsthand?</p> <p>If so, they should state it with honor and</p>

	<p>glory to Him.</p> <p>Apostles would never be reticent to share such a testimony with the world!</p> <p>Now, the LDS will allow impressions to exist. But never come out and claim it.</p> <p>It's also important to distinguish between the office of prophet and the spiritual gift of Prophecy.</p> <p>My five points on why prophets like unto Moses are no longer necessary, which we'll cover in a minute, will help us in our understanding of this.</p> <p>Suffice it to say, there are men and women with the spiritual gift of prophecy on earth today, but only one being who holds the office of Prophet - that is Jesus.</p>
<p>Finally, the LDS missionaries often make the statement, based in nothing more than uninformed logic, that says "God loves us as much today as He loved His children back in Moses day and therefore He would send prophets now to lead us, wouldn't he?"</p>	<p>My first response to this is, "Why yes Elder, God does love us as much today, that is why He sent His Son.</p> <p>But let's address this frankly laughable argument with the five proofs.</p> <p>Okay, here we go:</p>
<p>Proof #1 The use of the phrase, "All of the prophets" in the Bible.</p>	<p>Listen to the way prophets are spoken of in the New Testament:</p> <p>Luke 11:50 <i>That the blood of <u>all the</u></i></p>

prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation.

Luke 13:28 *There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.*

Luke 24:27 *And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.*

Acts 3:18 *But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.*

Acts 3:21 *Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.*

Acts 3:24 *Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.*

Acts 3:25 *Ye are the children of the prophets . . .*

Acts 10:43 *To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.*

The prophets were before Christ Jesus, they pointed to Jesus, told of Jesus, spoke of Jesus. They revealed God's will until Jesus came.

When Jesus came, their job was done, because Jesus ultimately revealed God and His will in the flesh.

	<p>Remember, God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son!</p>
<p>Proof #2 Parable of the Wicked Husbandman</p>	<p>Found in every one of the synoptic gospels.</p> <p>Luke 20 Mark 12 Matthew 21:33-37</p> <p>33 There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country: 34 And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. 35 And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. 36 Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. 37 But <u>last of all</u> he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son.</p> <p>Again, the prophets served a purpose, and were persecuted for it. But <u>last of all</u> God sent His Son!!</p>
<p>Proof #3 "Hebrews 1:1</p>	<p>Perhaps there is no greater passage that better explains the point than in Hebrews?</p> <p>Heb 1:1-2 <i>God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.</i></p> <p>In these last days, God speaks to us by His Son! And how does this happen?</p>

	<p>Through the Word and through the Holy Ghost!</p> <p>Which takes us to the 4th proof!</p>
Proof #4 The Holy Spirit at Pentecost	<p>Why would we need a Joseph Smith, a Brigham Young, or a Gordon B Hinckley to “guide us in these latter-days” when we have the Holy Spirit AND the Word?</p> <p>John 14:26 <i>But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you <u>all</u> things, and bring <u>all</u> things to your remembrance, <u>whatsoever I have said unto you.</u></i></p> <p>God wants a relationship with each of us directly. He wants to teach us. He wants to tell us, He wants to lead us and guide us.</p> <p>The veil was rent.</p> <p>We don’t need any man as the intermediary between us and God.</p> <p>No more high priests. No more prophets like unto Moses</p> <p>If we are born again, our spirit operates with God as the pilot with us learning how to live by trusting Him.</p> <p>He tells us how to live.</p> <p>He knows the way!</p> <p>Men seek the advice and trust in other men because they are afraid to walk by faith!</p> <p>They are afraid to wholly trust in God.</p> <p>They want to turn their thinking over to a person or institution to escape the pain and</p>

	<p>trial of leaning on Jesus.</p> <p>Religious institutions know this, and so they interject all sorts of answers for people – programs, manuals, prophets, popes – and none of them are part of the New Covenant through Jesus.</p> <p>This is why there is more emphasis on modern prophets than Jesus in Mormonism today – because they have arrogantly placed themselves in between God and man as earthly mediators!</p> <p>Follow the Savior Iesoos Yeshua Follow Lord Jesus, Don't go astray-aye! Follow Christ Jesus Our modern-day prophet Follow The Lamb He knows the Way! He IS the way. 😊</p>
<p>Proof #5 It is offered by what happened on the Mount of Transfiguration.</p> <p>Mark 9:2-8 Mark 9:2 And after six days Jesus took Peter and James and John and led them up into a high mountain, apart by themselves. And He was transfigured before them.</p>	

<p>3 And His clothing became shining, exceedingly white as snow such as no fuller on earth could whiten them.</p> <p>4 And Elijah with Moses was seen by them, and they were talking with Jesus.</p>	<p>What does this mean?</p> <p>It means Jesus, who at the time was between the suffering in the wilderness and the suffering on the cross, was transformed!</p> <p>Wherein a visual manifestation of the glory beneath His Flesh was revealed.</p> <p>Besides, Peter, James and John, who was there?</p> <p>Now of all the prophets, why was Moses and Elijah there when the Glory of Jesus was revealed?</p> <p>Why not Isaiah? Why not Samuel?</p> <p>Because they represented respectively the Law (Moses) and the prophets (Elijah) and represented the fulfillment of them in what Jesus was about to do.</p> <p>Moses represented the Law, for through Moses the Law was delivered to the Children of Israel.</p> <p>And Elijah represented the Prophets. Why? Elijah was the prophet of prophets, who had the most radical of radical ministries of the Old Covenant.</p> <p>Both Moses and Elijah had deaths that were uncommon to other men, possibly because they would be using their bodies at the transfiguration of Jesus.</p>
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<p>8 And suddenly, looking around, they did not see anyone any more,</p>	<p>Moses disappeared without his burial place being known and Elijah was taken up into heaven in a fiery chariot.</p> <p>Interestingly, both returned in their bodies that so strangely disappeared at the time of their passing.</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>The Jewish Targum connects the “coming of Moses with that of the Messiah.”</p> <p>Another Jewish tradition predicts “his appearance with that of Elijah.”</p> <p>What did Moses and Elijah talk about with Jesus as He was transfigured?</p> <p>Luke (Luke 9:31) "They spake of his death which he should accomplish at Jerusalem."</p> <p>The cloud which overshadowed the witnesses was bright or light-like, luminous, of the same kind as the cloud at Sinai when Moses spake with God, the same into which Elijah disappeared in the heavens via chariot, the same seen at the ascension of the Lord.</p> <p>Why was Moses and Elijah at the miraculous Transfiguration?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It was a witness that the spirits of <u>the lawgiver and the prophet</u> accepted the sufferings and the death of the Messiah which would fulfill the Law and the Prophets. 2. It furnishes to us a striking proof of the unity of the Old and New Testaments, for personal immortality, and the mysterious intercommunion of the visible and invisible worlds.
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<p>except Jesus alone with themselves.</p>	<p>Both meet in Jesus Christ; he is the connecting link between the Old and New Testaments, between heaven and earth, between the kingdom of grace and the kingdom of glory.</p> <p>It is very significant that at the end of the scene the disciples saw no man save Jesus alive.</p> <p>Moses and Elijah, the law and the prophets – types and shadows – passed on to a better way.</p> <p>The gospel, the fulfillment, the substance of Jesus remains--the only one who can lead us to God.</p> <p>May all of the LDS men who call themselves “Prophets or Apostles,” admit their place – as ecclesiastical leaders of a religious institution – and step down from the platforms upon which they stand, repent of the lofty positions they have put themselves in, and admit that Jesus is the only Prophet, Priest, Lord and King anyone on this earth ever needs to “guide us in these Latter-days.”</p> <p>Take down their pictures.</p> <p>Stop standing in their presence.</p> <p>And look with all your heart, might, mind, and strength to the cross!</p> <p>Praise the Lord.</p>
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1Co 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. {diversities: or, kinds}

1Co 12:29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? {workers...: or, powers?}

1Co 14:29 Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.

1Co 14:32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

Eph 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

Eph 3:5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

1Th 2:15 Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men: {persecuted us: or, chased us out}

Heb 1:1 ¶ God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Heb 11:32 ¶ And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

Jas 5:10 Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.

1Pe 1:10 ¶ Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

2Pe 2:1 ¶ But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

2Pe 3:2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:

1Jo 4:1 ¶ Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Transfiguration, The

Transfiguration, The

(The event in the earthly life of Christ which marks the culminating point in his public ministry, and stands midway between the temptation in the wilderness and the agony in Gethsemane,

Mt 17:1-13; Mr 9:2-13; Lu 9:28-36

Place. Though tradition locates the transfiguration on Mount Tabor there is little to confirm this view and modern critics favor Mount Hermon, the highest mountain-top in Gaulanitis, or one of the spurs of the Anti-Lebanus. Time. --The transfiguration probably took place at night, because it could then be seen to better advantage than in daylight, and Jesus usually went to mountains to spend there the night in prayer.

Mt 14:23,24; Lu 6:12; 21:37

The apostles were asleep, and are described as having kept themselves awake through the act of transfiguration.

Lu 9:32

The actors and witnesses. --Christ was the central figure, the subject of transfiguration. Moses and Elijah appeared from the heavenly world, as the representatives of the Old Testament, the one of the law the other of prophecy, to do homage to him who was the fulfillment of both. Mr. Ellicott says, "The close of the ministry of each was not after the 'common death of all men.' No man knew of the sepulchre of Moses,

De 34:6

and Elijah had passed away in the chariot and horses of fire.

2Ki 2:11

Both were associated in men's minds with the glory of the kingdom of the Christ. The Jerusalem Targum on

Ex 12:1

... connects the coming of Moses with that of the Messiah. Another Jewish tradition predicts his appearance with that of Elijah." Moses the law giver and Elijah the chief of the prophets both appear talking with Christ the source of the gospel, to show that they are all one and agree in one. St. Luke,

Lu 9:31

adds the subject of their communing: "They spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem." Among the apostles the three favorite disciples, Peter, James and John were the sole witnesses of the scene-- "the sons of thunder and the man of rock." The event itself. --The transfiguration or transformation, or, as the Germans call it, the glorification, consisted in a visible manifestation of the inner glory of Christ's person, accompanied by an audible

voice from heaven. It was the revelation and anticipation of his future state of glory, which was concealed under the veil of his humanity in the state of humiliation. The cloud which overshadowed the witnesses was bright or light-like, luminous, of the same kind as the cloud at the ascension. Significance of the miracle. --

1. It served as a solemn inauguration of the history of the passion and final consummation of Christ's work on earth.
2. It confirmed the faith of the three favorite disciples, and prepared them for the great trial which was approaching, by showing them the real glory and power of Jesus.
3. It was a witness that the spirits of the lawgiver and the prophet accepted the sufferings and the death which had shaken the faith of the disciples as the necessary conditions of the messianic kingdom. --Ellicott. As envoys from the eternal Majesty, audibly affirmed that it was the will the Father that with his own precious blood he should make atonement for sin. They impressed a new seal upon the ancient, eternal truth that the partition wall which sin had raised could be broken down by no other means than by the power of his sufferings; that he as the good Shepherd could only ransom his sheep with the price of his own life.-Krummacher.
4. It furnishes also to us all a striking proof of the unity of the Old and New Testaments, for personal immortality, and the mysterious intercommunion of the visible and invisible worlds. Both meet in Jesus Christ; he is the connecting link between the Old and New Testaments, between heaven and earth, between the kingdom of grace and the kingdom of glory. It is very significant that at the end of the scene the disciples saw no man save Jesus alive. Moses and Elijah, the law and the promise, types and shadows, pass away; the gospel, the fulfillment, the substance Christ remains--the only one who can relieve the misery of earth and glorify our nature, Christ all in all. (chiefly from Smith's larger Bib. Dic.--ED.)

Elijah

Eli'jah

(my God is Jehovah) has been well entitled "the grandest and the most romantic character that Israel ever produced." "Elijah the Tishbite,... of the inhabitants of Gilead" is literally all that is given us to know of his parentage and locality. Of his appearance as he "stood before" Ahab (B.C. 910) with the suddenness of motion to this day characteristic of the Bedouins from his native hills, we can perhaps realize something from the touches, few but strong, of the narrative. His chief characteristic was his hair, long and thick, and hanging down his back. His ordinary clothing consisted of a girdle of skin round his loins, which he tightened when about to move quickly.

1Ki 18:46

But in addition to this he occasionally wore the "mantle" or cape of sheepskin which has supplied us with one of our most familiar figures of speech. His introduction, in what we may call the first act of his life, is the most startling description. He suddenly appears before Ahab, prophesies a three-years drought in Israel, and proclaims the vengeance of Jehovah for the apostasy of the king. Obligated to flee from the vengeance of king, or more probably of the queen (comp.

1Ki 19:2

he was directed to the brook Cherith. There in the hollow of the torrent bed he remained, supported in the miraculous manner with which we are all familiar, till the failing of the brook obliged him to forsake it. His next refuge was at Zarephath. Here in the house of the widow woman Elijah performed the miracles of prolonging the oil and the meal, and restored the son of the widow to life after his apparent death. 1Kin 17. In this or some other retreat an interval of more than two years must have elapsed. The drought continued, and at last the full horrors of famine, caused by the failure of the crops, descended on Samaria. Again Elijah suddenly appears before Ahab. There are few more sublime stories in history than the account of the succeeding events --with the servant of Jehovah and his single attendant on the one hand, and the 850 prophets of Baal on the other; the altars, the descending fire of Jehovah consuming both sacrifice and altar; the rising storm, and the ride across the plain to Jezreel. 1Kin 18. Jezebel vows vengeance, and again Elijah takes refuge in flight into the wilderness, where he is again miraculously fed, and goes forward, in the strength of that food, a journey of forty days to the mount of God, even to Horeb, where he takes refuge in a cave, and witnesses a remarkable vision of Jehovah.

1Ki 19:9-18

He receives the divine communication, and sets forth in search of Elisha, whom he finds ploughing in the field, and anoints him prophet in his place. ch. 19. For a time little is heard of Elijah, and Ahab and Jezebel probably believed they had seen the last of him. But after the murder of Naboth, Elijah, who had received an intimation from Jehovah of what was taking place, again suddenly appears before the king, and then follow Elijah's fearful denunciation of Ahab and Jezebel, which may possibly be recovered by putting together the words recalled by Jehu,

2Ki 9:26,36,37

and those given in

1Ki 21:19-25

A space of three or four years now elapses (comp.

1Ki 22:1,51; 2Ki 1:17

before we again catch a glimpse of Elijah. Ahaziah is on his death-bed,

1Ki 22:51; 2Ki 1:1,2

and sends to an oracle or shrine of Baal to ascertain the issue of his illness; but Elijah suddenly appears on the path of the messengers, without preface or inquiry utters his message of death, and as rapidly disappears. The wrathful king sends two bands of soldiers to seize Elijah, and they are consumed with fire; but finally the prophet goes down and delivers to Ahaziah's face the message of death. No long after Elijah sent a message to Jehoram denouncing his evil doings, and predicting his death.

2Ch 21:12-15

It was at Gilgal --probably on the western edge of the hills of Ephraim-- that the prophet received the divine intimation that his departure was at hand. He was at the time with Elisha, who seems now to have become his constant companion, and who would not consent to leave him. "And it came to pass as they still went on and talked, that, behold, a chariot of fire and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven." (B.C. 896.) Fifty men of the sons of the prophets ascended the abrupt heights behind the town, and witnessed the scene. How deep was the impression which he made on the mind of the nation may be judged of from the fixed belief which many centuries after prevailed that Elijah would again appear for the relief and restoration of his country, as Malachi prophesied.

Mal 4:5

He spoke, but left no written words, save the letter to Jehoram king of Judah.

2Ch 21:12-15

Moses

Mo'ses

(Heb. Mosheh, "drawn," i.e. from the water; in the Coptic it means "saved from the water"), the legislator of the Jewish people, and in a certain sense the founder of the Jewish religion. The immediate pedigree of Moses is as follows:

Levi was the father of: Gershon -- Kohath -- Merari Kohath was the father of: Amram = Jochebed Amram = Jochebed was the father of: Hur = Miriam -- Aaron = Elisheba -- Moses = Zipporah Aaron = Elisheba was the father of: Nadab -- Abihu -- Eleazar -- Ithamar Eleazar was the father of: Phineas Moses = Zipporah was the father of: Gershom -- Eliezer Gershom was the father of: Jonathan The history of Moses naturally divides itself into three periods of 40 years each. Moses was born at Goshen, In Egypt, B.C.

1571. The story of his birth is thoroughly Egyptian in its scene. His mother made extraordinary efforts for his preservation from the general destruction of the male children of Israel. For three months the child was concealed in the house. Then his mother placed him in a small boat or basket of papyrus, closed against the water by bitumen. This was placed among the aquatic vegetation by the side of one of the canals of the Nile. The sister lingered to watch her brother's fate. The Egyptian princess, who, tradition says, was a childless wife, came down to bathe in the sacred river. Her attendant slaves followed her. She saw the basket in the flags, and despatched divers, who brought it. It was opened, and the cry of the child moved the princess to compassion. She determined to rear it as her own. The sister was at hand to recommend a Hebrew nurse, the child's own mother. here was the first part of Moses' training, --a training at home in the true religion, in faith in God, in the promises to his nation, in the life of a saint, --a training which he never forgot, even amid the splendors and gilded sin of Pharaoh's court. The child was adopted by the princess. From this time for many years Moses must be considered as an Egyptian. In the Pentateuch this period is a blank, but in the New Testament he is represented as "learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians," and as "mighty in words and deeds."

Ac 7:22

this was the second part of Moses' training. The second period of Moses' life began when he was forty years old. Seeing the sufferings of his people, Moses determined to go to them as their helper, and made his great life-choice, "choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt."

Heb 11:25,26

Seeing an Israelite suffering the bastinado from an Egyptian, and thinking that they were alone, he slew the Egyptian, and buried the corpse in the sand. But the people soon showed themselves unfitted as yet to obtain their freedom, nor was Moses yet fitted to be their leader. He was compelled to leave Egypt when the slaying of the Egyptian became known, and he fled to the land of Midian, in the southern and southeastern part of the Sinai peninsula. There was a famous well ("the well,")

Ex 2:15

surrounded by tanks for the watering of the flocks of the Bedouin herdsmen. By this well the fugitive seated himself and watched the gathering of the sheep. There were the Arabian shepherds, and there were also seven maidens, whom the shepherds rudely drove away from the water. The chivalrous spirit which had already broken forth in behalf of his oppressed countrymen broke forth again in behalf of the distressed maidens. They returned unusually soon to their father, Jethro, and told him of their adventure. Moses, who up to this time had been "an Egyptian,"

Ex 2:19

now became for a time an Arabian. He married Zipporah, daughter of his host, to whom he also became the slave and shepherd.

Ex 2:21; 3:1

Here for forty years Moses communed with God and with nature, escaping from the false ideas taught him in Egypt, and sifting out the truths that were there. This was the third process of his training for his work; and from this training he learned infinitely more than from Egypt. Stanley well says, after enumerating what the Israelites derived from Egypt, that the contrast was always greater than the likeness. This process was completed when God met him on Horeb, appearing in a burning bush, and, communicating with him, appointed him to be the leader and deliverer of his people. Now begins the third period of forty years in Moses' life. He meets Aaron, his next younger brother, whom God permitted to be the spokesman, and together they return to Goshen in Egypt. From this time the history of Moses is the history of Israel for the next forty years. Aaron spoke and acted for Moses, and was the permanent inheritor of the sacred staff of power. But Moses was the inspiring soul behind. He is incontestably the chief personage of the history, in a sense in which no one else is described before or since. He was led into a closer communion with the invisible world than was vouchsafed to any other in the Old Testament. There are two main characters in which he appears --as a leader and as a prophet. (1) As a leader, his life divides itself into the three epochs --the march to Sinai; the march from Sinai to Kadesh; and the conquest of the transjordanic kingdoms. On approaching Palestine the office of the leader becomes blended with that of the general or the conqueror. By Moses the spies were sent to explore the country. Against his advice took place the first disastrous battle at Hormah. To his guidance is ascribed the circuitous route by which the nation approached Palestine from the east, and to his generalship the two successful campaigns in which Sihon and Og were defeated. The narrative is told so briefly that we are in danger of forgetting that at this last stage of his life Moses must have been as much a conqueror and victorious soldier as was Joshua. (2) His character as a prophet is, from the nature of the case, more distinctly brought out. He is the first as he is the greatest example of a prophet in

the Old Testament. His brother and sister were both endowed with prophetic gifts. The seventy elders, and Eldad and Medad also, all "prophesied."

Nu 11:25-27

But Moses rose high above all these. With him the divine revelations were made "mouth to mouth."

Nu 12:8

Of the special modes of this more direct communication, four great examples are given, corresponding to four critical epochs in his historical career. (a) The appearance of the divine presence in the flaming acacia tree.

Ex 3:2-6

(b) In the giving of the law from Mount Sinai, the outward form of the revelation was a thick darkness as of a thunder-cloud, out of which proceeded a voice.

Ex 19:19; 20:21

on two occasions he is described as having penetrated within the darkness.

Ex 24:18; 34:28

(c) It was nearly at the close of these communications in the mountains of Sinai that an especial revelation of God was made to him personally.

Ex 33:21,22; 34:5,6,7

God passed before him. (d) The fourth mode of divine manifestation was that which is described as beginning at this juncture, and which was maintained with more or less continuity through the rest of his career.

Ex 33:7

It was the communication with God in the tabernacle from out the pillar of cloud and fire. There is another form of Moses' prophetic gift, viz., the poetical form of composition which characterizes the Jewish prophecy generally. These poetical utterances are --

1. "The song which Moses and the children of Israel sung" (after the passage of the Red Sea).

Ex 15:1-19

2. A fragment of the war-song against Amalek.

Ex 17:16

3. A fragment of lyrical burst of indignation.

Ex 32:18

4. The fragments of war-songs, probably from either him or his immediate prophetic followers, in

Nu 21:14,15,27-30

preserved in the "book of the wars of Jehovah,"

Nu 21:14

and the address to the well. ch.

Nu 21:14

and the address to the well. ch.

Nu 21:16,17,18

5. The song of Moses,

De 32:1-43

setting forth the greatness and the failings of Israel.

6. The blessing of Moses on the tribes,

De 33:1-29

7. The 90th Psalm, "A prayer of Moses, the man of God." The title, like all the titles of the psalms, is of doubtful authority, and the psalm has often been referred to a later author. Character. --The prophetic office of Moses can only be fully considered in connection with his whole character and appearance.

Ho 12:13

He was in a sense peculiar to himself the founder and representative of his people; and in accordance with this complete identification of himself with his nation is the only strong personal trait which we are able to gather from his history.

Nu 12:3

The word "meek" is hardly an adequate reading of the Hebrew term, which should be rather "much enduring." It represents what we should now designate by the word "disinterested." All that is told of him indicates a withdrawal of himself, a preference of the cause of his nation to his own interests, which makes him the most complete example of Jewish patriotism. (He was especially a man of prayer and of faith, of wisdom, courage and patience.) In exact conformity with his life is the account of his end. The book of Deuteronomy describes, and is, the long last farewell of the prophet to his people. This takes place on the first day of the eleventh month of the fortieth year of the wanderings, in the plains of Moab.

De 1:3,5

Moses is described as 120 years of age, but with his sight and his freshness of strength unabated.

De 34:7

Joshua is appointed his successor. The law is written out and ordered to be deposited in the ark. ch. 31. The song and the blessing of the tribes conclude the farewell. chs. 32,33. And then comes the mysterious close. He is told that he is to see the good land beyond the Jordan, but not to possess it himself. He ascends the mount of Pisgah and stands on Nebo, one of its summits, and surveys the four great masses of Palestine west of the Jordan, so far as it can be discerned from that height. The view has passed into a proverb for all nations. "So Moses the servant of Jehovah died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of Jehovah. And he buried him in a 'ravine' in the land of Moab, 'before' Beth-peor: but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day... And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days."

De 34:5,6,8

This is all that is said in the sacred record. (This burial was thus hidden probably -- (1) To preserve his grave from idolatrous worship or superstitious reverence; and (2) Because it may be that God did not intend to leave his body to corruption, but to prepare it, as he did the body of Elijah, so that Moses could in his spiritual body meet Christ, together with Elijah, on the mount of transfiguration.) Moses is spoken of as a likeness of Christ; and as this is a point of view which has been almost lost in the Church, compared with the more familiar comparisons of Christ to Adam, David, Joshua, and yet has as firm a basis in fact as any of them, it may be well to draw it out in detail. (1) Moses is, as it would seem, the only character of the Old Testament to whom Christ expressly likens himself: "Moses wrote of me."

Joh 5:46

It suggests three main points of likeness: (a) Christ was, like Moses, the great prophet of the people --the last, as Moses was the first. (b) Christ, like Moses, is a lawgiver: "Him shall ye hear." (c) Christ, like Moses, was a prophet out of the midst of the nation, "from their brethren." As Moses was the entire representative of his people, feeling for them more than for himself, absorbed in their interests, hopes and fears, so, with reverence be it said, was Christ. (2) In

Heb 3:1-19; 12:24-29; Ac 7:37

Christ is described, though more obscurely, as the Moses of the new dispensation --as the apostle or messenger or mediator of God to the people --as the controller and leader of the flock or household of God. (3) The details of their lives are sometimes, though not often, compared.

Ac 7:24-28,35

In

Jude 1:9

is an allusion to an altercation between Michael and Satan over the body of Moses. It probably refers to a lost apocryphal book, mentioned by Origen, called the "Ascension" or "Assumption of Moses." Respecting the books of Moses, see PENTATEUCH.

Malachi 4:5 Mal 4:5

5. I send you Elijah--as a means towards your "remembering the law" (Mal 4:4).

the prophet--emphatical; not "the Tishbite"; for it is in his official, not his personal capacity, that his coming is here predicted. In this sense, John the Baptist was an Elijah in spirit (Lu 1:16,17), but not the literal Elijah; whence when asked, "Art thou Elias?" (Joh 1:21), He answered, "I am not." "Art thou that prophet?" "No." This implies that John, though knowing from the angel's announcement to his father that he was referred to by Mal 4:5 (Lu 1:17), whence he wore the costume of Elijah, yet knew by inspiration that he did not exhaustively fulfil all that is included in this prophecy: that there is a further fulfilment (compare Note, see on JFB for Mal 3:1). As Moses in Mal 4:4 represents the law, so Elijah represents the prophets. The Jews always understood it of the literal Elijah. Their saying is, "Messiah must be anointed by

Elijah." As there is another consummating advent of Messiah Himself, so also of His forerunner Elijah; perhaps in person, as at the transfiguration (Mt 17:3; compare Mt 17:11). He in his appearance at the transfiguration in that body on which death had never passed is the forerunner of the saints who shall be found alive at the Lord's second coming. Re 11:3 may refer to the same witnesses as at the transfiguration, Moses and Elijah; Re 11:6 identifies the latter (compare 1Ki 17:1; Jas 5:17). Even after the transfiguration Jesus (Mt 17:11) speaks of Elijah's coming "to restore all things" as still future, though He adds that Elijah (in the person of John the Baptist) is come already in a sense (compare Ac 3:21). However, the future forerunner of Messiah at His second coming may be a prophet or number of prophets clothed with Elijah's power, who, with zealous upholders of "the law" clothed in the spirit of "Moses," may be the forerunning witnesses alluded to here and in Re 11:2-12. The words "before the ... dreadful day of the Lord," show that John cannot be exclusively meant; for he came before the day of Christ's coming in grace, not before His coming in terror, of which last the destruction of Jerusalem was the earnest (Mal 4:1; Joe 2:31).

Hell

(November 28, 2006)

GAMA – Get a Mormon Answer!	<p>Last weeks question:</p> <p>Jesus – created being or uncreated.</p> <p>Responses include:</p> <p>Bob in Sandy “Both. He was uncreated in the sense that God cannot create something out of nothing and He was created in the sense that God organized Him from preexisting matter and made Him his first Son.”</p> <p>Finally, an answer that truly represents LDS doctrine!</p>
<p>Since our first show, we have covered a lot of doctrinal ground.</p>	<p>We’ve covered . . .</p> <p>Spiritual rebirth/Worship/Sin/The Bible (twice)/the Trinity/Polygamy/the Cross/Freemasonry/Modern and Ancient Temples/The BOM/Grace/ Testimonies/ The Law/Baptism/Culture/Who is Jesus (parts 1-5)/and Sabbath-day.</p> <p>Last week we discussed Prophets and Apostles.</p> <p>Thirty eight hours of biblical perspectives relative to Mormon doctrine and practice.</p> <p>Thirty eight hours of documented and researched information.</p> <p>And every point discussed has met with some sort of refutation by members of the</p>

	<p>LDS Church.</p> <p>Every topic has caused dozens upon dozens - even hundreds - of people to email, call, or write and tell me I am wrong, that the restored Gospel of Mormonism presents “God’s true plan of Salvation.”</p> <p>These communications typically end with a statement that they “know the Church is true.”</p> <p>They <i>know</i> it is true.</p> <p>What is at stake here?</p> <p>Is this just a religious swordfight, some television entertainments that have no genuine consequences in the hereafter?</p> <p>Are there many paths that lead up the mountain, with all of them providing the similar view at the top, or is eternal life more restrictive than that?</p> <p>What is truly at stake here?</p> <p>I am always amazed when I look at the span of human life.</p> <p>We’re here one day, and gone forever thereafter.</p> <p>Where do we all go?</p> <p>Where are the trillions of people who have died?</p> <p>Where is my older brother, Jeff? Where is John Lennon? Where is Karl Marx? Sampson? Dalila? Cain and Abel?</p>
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<p>Luke adds some even greater depth to this thought where he quotes Jesus as saying:</p>	<p>If nobody is wrong, and everyone is right, then I should close up shop now and do as I please, correct?</p> <p>Do all roads truly lead to God?</p> <p>According to the Bible, they do not. NOT IN THE LEAST.</p> <p>In fact Jesus Himself – the one who is always quoted by religious liberals as being so full of love – said some very discomfoting words regarding the future state of most people.</p> <p><i>Matthew 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:</i></p> <p>He then gives us the reverse position in the next verse:</p> <p><i>14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.</i></p> <p><i>Luke 13:24 Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.</i></p> <p>What is at risk here? Jesus said it Himself:</p> <p><i>“broad is the way that leadeth to destruction.”</i></p>

<p>We live at a time where the notion of hell is mocked.</p> <p>A time where even Bible believing Christians don't want to hear about it, don't believe in it, and don't think a loving God would send people to it.</p> <p>We live in an age where those who accept the traditional biblical notions of hell are mocked.</p>	<p>I want to say for the record that hell is a reality! And a terrifying one, at that.</p> <p>One of the greatest tools devised by wicked minds is the renunciation or revision of the biblical concepts of hell.</p> <p>And I'd like to base my teaching tonight about some very important references to it in the Word.</p>
<p>The word "Hell"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is derived from the Saxon word helan, which means "to cover;" or to be "covered in an invisible place." - In Scripture there are three words so that describe the hell: - Sheol, hades, and Gehenna 	<p>The Hebrew word Sheol, occurs in the OT 65 times. It is also rendered grave 31 times.</p> <p>Sheol literally means "to ask and demand" and describes a type of insatiability, where "enough is never enough."</p> <p>Listen to the tone of Proverbs 30 which</p>

<p>The Greek word hades (found in the New Testament) has the same scope of signification as sheol of the Old Testament.</p> <p>It is a “prison” (1st Peter 3:19) with “gates and bars and locks” (Matthew 16:18; Revelation 1:18), and it is “downward” (Matthew 11:23; Luke 10:15).</p> <p>Prior to the death and resurrection of the Lord, the righteous and the wicked were separated in sheol or hades.</p>	<p>describes this Hebrew concept of sheol:</p> <p>Proverbs 30:15 <i>The horseleach hath two daughters, crying, Give, give. There are three things that are never satisfied, yea, four things say not, It is enough: The grave; and the barren womb; the earth that is not filled with water; and the fire saith not, It is enough.</i></p> <p>In thirty-one cases in the Authorized Version the word sheol is rendered "hell," or as “the place of disembodied spirits.”</p> <p>The inhabitants of sheol are called "the congregation of the dead" (Proverbs 21:16).</p> <p>It is (a) the abode of the wicked (Numbers 16:33; Job 24:19; Psalms 9:17; 31:17,)</p> <p>And a place for the good (Psalms 16:10; 30:3; 49:15; 86:13,).</p> <p>Job 11:8 describes Sheol as “deep” Job 10 describes it as “dark” Job 17 and with “bars” (Job 17:16).</p> <p>In Numbers 16 , it reads that “the dead go down” to it.</p>
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The blessed dead were in that part of hades called paradise (Luke 23:43).

They are also said to be in Abraham's bosom (Luke 16:22).

According to the Parable of The Rich Man and Lazarus told by Jesus, the unsaved are in a place of insatiability, torment, and thirst from which there is no escape.

The third word used for hell word is **Gehenna.**

- The word Gehenna [the Greek contraction of the Hebrew place Hinnom] was never used in the time of Christ in any other sense than to denote "the place of future punishment."
- It got its name from a place the Jews called the "Valley of Hinnom," first mentioned in Joshua 18.
- Hinnom was a deep narrow ravine which separated Mount Zion from a place called the "Hill of Evil Council."
- There the idolatrous Jews burned their children alive as a sacrifice to Molech and Baal.
- A particular part of the valley was called Tophet, or the "fire-stove," This is where the children were burned alive.
- After the Exile, in order to show their abhorrence of the locality, the Jews made this valley the receptacle of all the horrible evils of the city, including the burning of human waste, animals and

<p>Finally, there is a forth word worth mentioning here that describes hell.</p> <p>It is the Greek word abussos, and it is usually translated “bottomless pit” in the New Testament. (Scary word to me)</p> <p>It is thought that there is a place on earth where demons enter and exit our realm through what is known as the “abussos.”</p>	<p>the dead bodies of criminals because the fire was, as is supposed, kept constantly burning there.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In most of its occurrences in the Greek New Testament, Gehenna designates the “place of the lost.” - The fearful condition of Gehenna is described in various figurative expressions throughout the Word of God. <p>The Jews associated with this valley these two ideas, (1) that it was a place of great sufferings; and (2) that it was a place of filth and corruption.</p> <p>It became thus to the popular mind a symbol of the abode of the wicked hereafter. It came to signify hell as the place of the wicked.</p> <p>Jesus used the word “Gehenna” eleven times in His discourses to describe a future place of punishment (Matthew 23:33; Luke 12:5; Matthew 5:22,).</p>
<p>The Bible teaches some very clear messages about hell.</p> <p>These include:</p>	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) There are only two destinations for people after this life – heaven or hell. 2) There are varying levels or punishments in hell (just as there are varying degrees of rewards in heaven.) 3) Hell is a place of torture. 4) Hell is an eternal place.
<p>In response to the biblical positions on hell, Mormonism, which was ultimately influenced by the false doctrines of Universalism (JS Sr. embraced) decided to make hell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “a little more difficult to obtain,” - and once there, “a little less painful” than what the Bible teaches it is. <p>As with almost everything LDS, hell has a few different definitions in the faith.</p> <p>First there is the “not-living with God hell.”</p> <p>This is everyplace but the Celestial Kingdom.</p> <p>Instead of making hell a multi-tiered place of misery, Mormonism makes heaven a multi-tiered place of joy and happiness!</p> <p>There’s . . . A telestial kingdom. A terrestrial kingdom. And a multi-level celestial kingdom.</p> <p>Anything not the celestial kingdom is</p>	

considered a type of hell to the LDS because people there won't be with their families and they won't be able to procreate anymore.

This is once sense in which Mormons believe people are "damned."

The only parallel to the Biblical hell in Mormon doctrine is the idea of a place called "outer darkness."

This is a place where sons of perdition (apostates) will dwell. But even this hell is a temporary place of suffering.

The Doctrine and Covenants Student manual says (on page 165) "Hell will have an end."

And Joseph Fielding Smith taught in Doctrines of Salvation that people must suffer through hell before entering the Telestial Kingdom . . . saying

"these, after they have been punished for their sins and have been turned over to the torments of Satan, shall eventually come forth after the Millennium, to receive the Telestial Kingdom."
(Doctrines of Salvation 2:209)

This is man-made foolishness aimed at giving false hope.

And stances like these contribute to a very, very dangerous attitude that sort of says, "Well, even if I don't

(SIDE NOTE) By the way, the Terrestrial kingdom will be filled with faithful and true Christians who refused to embrace Mormon Law.

make it to the Celestial kingdom, I'll be alright."

Don't believe this, my brothers and sisters.

Joseph Smith's father was a confirmed Universalist who ardently believed that ALL men will be saved.

The Book of Mormon was a refutation of Universalist doctrine but later, Joseph made an about face and began to preach aspect of it like his father.

What does the Bible say about hell?

First, there are only two places, two final destinations, in the Word – Heaven and Hell.

(Matthew 13:30-49)

(Matthew 25:32-46)

(Luke 16:26)

(2nd Corinthians 5:8)

(Philippians 1:23)

The doctrine of celestial, terrestrial, telestial kingdoms and outer darkness are not biblical.

Neither is the idea that some people will spend some time in hell, and then get out.

Second, the Bible teaches that there are degrees in hell.

Matthew 10:15 Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.

Luke 12:47-48 And that servant, which

knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

Hebrews 10:29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

Revelation 20:11-15 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Third, hell in the Bible, and its punishments, are everlasting and eternal.

This is not a popular idea today. But let's turn to the original language used in 2

	<p>passages for some insight into this truth.</p> <p>In Matthew 25:46 <i>And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life <u>eternal</u>.</i></p> <p>GREEK Matthew 25:46 And <kai> these <houtos> shall go away <aperchomai> into <eis> everlasting <aionios> punishment <kolasis>: but <de> the righteous <dikaiois> into <eis> life <zoe> eternal <aionios>.</p> <p>Aionios: perpetual (also used of past time, or past and future as well):--<u>eternal, for ever, everlasting.</u></p> <p>See Greek 165 (aion)</p> <p>Next passage: Revelation 14:11</p> <p>Revelation 14:11 <i>And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.</i></p> <p>GREEK Revelation 14:11 And <kai> the smoke <kapnos> of their <autos> torment <basanismos> ascendeth up <anabaino> for <eis> <u>ever <aion> and ever <aion></u>: and <kai> they have <echo> no <ou> rest <anapausis> day <hemera> nor <kai> night <nux>, who <ho> worship <proskuneo> the beast <therion> and <kai> his <autos> image <eikon>, and <kai> whosoever <ei tis> receiveth <lambano> the mark <charagma> of his <autos> name <onoma>.</p> <p>Lutheran Scholar RCH Lenski say:</p>
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“The strongest expression for our (English) forever in the Greek is “eis tous aionan ton aionon. The Greek takes its greatest term for time, the eon, pluralizes it, and then multiplies it by its own plural, even using articles which make the eons the definite ones.”

(from *Revelation* pg. 438)

Jesus speaks of a place where “the worm never dies.”

In Gehenna, the fire never ceases to burn.

Fourth, the Bible teaches that hell is not just eternal, it is painful.

This passage in Revelation also teaches us something about the pain of hell.

Again, the passage reads:

“ . . . and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone and the smoke shall ascend up forever and ever.

The Greek word for torment is *basanizo*.

Thayers Greek Lexicon says it means to “vex with grievous pain . . . to torture.”

Arnt and Gingrich says it means “to torture and torment.”

It is very apparent, when read in conjunction with other biblical descriptions of hell (gnashing of teeth, misery, thirst) that it is in fact a place of eternal and endless torture and torment.

I joke about a lot of things in life. I take very little in this world seriously. But as I continue to understand the Word, I do not joke about hell anymore.

	<p>Jesus came and gave His everything to rescue us from this place, a place which was prepared by God in the beginning for Satan and his angels but became a place for all those who reject Him.</p>
<p>Roger, a friend of mine, told me a story recently he heard on the radio.</p> <p>It was told by a man who was religiously inclined, but didn't truly know the Lord in his life.</p> <p>He worked as a hired gun in a neighborhood back east where he would torture and kill people who crossed the family.</p> <p>One day while he was eating lunch someone approached him and shot him point-blank in the forehead.</p> <p>He said in the story that he went down a long tunnel and came out onto a beach.</p> <p>He said that he looked out to the water and saw a sea of flames, with waves of fire roaring in toward the shore.</p> <p>He looked up and down the beach and saw many, many people all walking about aimlessly.</p> <p>The moaning was intense.</p> <p>He said he came upon a man he had murdered and as the man passed him, he had nothing but empty vacant eyes, and did not recognize him from his life on earth.</p> <p>There was great howling and</p>	

<p>moaning and in the scene the man telling the story said he cried out for Jesus to save him!</p> <p>Jesus save me! Jesus save me! Jesus save me!</p> <p>And then he woke.</p> <p>Hell has been deconstructed in our lives, my friends.</p> <p>But it is a horrible and truly eternal reality.</p> <p>To make it transitory or to redefine it as not from a loving God, we find ourselves deluded.</p>	
	<p>When I hear all the logical, humanist arguments against hell, like</p> <p>“What kind of God would send anyone to hell?”</p> <p>OR</p> <p>“What kind of God would send anyone to a place that burns forever?”</p> <p>I think of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.</p> <p>Here we have a perfect Son coming to the Father, a loving father, and asks if there is any other way to get around what He is about to do.</p> <p>He doesn’t want to face the torments, the punishment, the pain, and agony, and misery, and woe.</p> <p>Here we have God in the flesh trying to discover an alternative to the infinite suffering He was about to endure.</p>

	<p>And so He asks, "Is there any other way to let this brutal cup pass?"</p> <p>And what is the answer from the all good, all loving, Father you think will wink at those who don't know His Son?</p> <p>"No."</p> <p>"No, Jesus, there is no other way."</p> <p>And He not only allows His own Son to suffer more than anyone else has ever suffered, but it is His own wrath for our sins that He pours out upon Him!</p> <p>Now here you are, Mr. Jetset. Mr. Worldly. Mrs. "Why I'm a good girl," Mrs. "I go to the temple every month faithfully but don't really know much about Jesus,"</p> <p>And you think that the God who beat His Son nearly to death is going to just accept you because you think you're a good person!</p> <p>All I can say . . . all I can promise you . . . is there is a brutish, rotting hell waiting.</p> <p>But there is a simple and perfect escape – His name is Jesus.</p> <p>And you must be born-again to see Him.</p>
	<p>BARNABAS QUESTION</p> <p>son of consolation, the surname of Joses, a Levite (Ac 4:36). His name stands first on the list of prophets and teachers of the church at Antioch (Ac 13:1). Luke speaks of him as a "good man" (Ac 11:24). He was born of Jewish parents of the tribe of Levi. He was a native of Cyprus, where he had a possession of land (Ac 4:36,37),</p>

which he sold. His personal appearance is supposed to have been dignified and commanding (Acts 14:11,12). When Paul returned to Jerusalem after his conversion, Barnabas took him and introduced him to the apostles (Acts 9:27). They had probably been companions as students in the school of Gamaliel.

The prosperity of the church at Antioch led the apostles and brethren at Jerusalem to send Barnabas thither to superintend the movement. He found the work so extensive and weighty that he went to Tarsus in search of Saul to assist him. Saul returned with him to Antioch and labored with him for a whole year (Acts 11:25,26). The two were at the end of this period sent up to Jerusalem with the contributions the church at Antioch had made for the poorer brethren there (Acts 11:28-30). Shortly after they returned, bringing John Mark with them, they were appointed as missionaries to the heathen world, and in this capacity visited Cyprus and some of the principal cities of Asia Minor (Acts 13:14). Returning from this first missionary journey to Antioch, they were again sent up to Jerusalem to consult with the church there regarding the relation of Gentiles to the church (Acts 15:1; Galatians 2:1). This matter having been settled, they returned again to Antioch, bringing the decree of the council as the rule by which Gentiles were to be admitted into the church.

When about to set forth on a second missionary journey, a dispute arose between Saul and Barnabas as to the propriety of taking John Mark with them again. The dispute ended by Saul and Barnabas taking separate routes. Saul took Silas as his companion, and journeyed through Syria and Cilicia; while Barnabas took his nephew John Mark,

	<p>and visited Cyprus (Acts 15:36-41). Barnabas is not again mentioned by Luke in the Acts.</p> <p>BARNABAS</p> <p>-Also called JOSES -A prophet Acts 13:1</p> <p>-An apostle Acts 14:14</p> <p>-A Levite who gave his possessions to be owned in common with other disciples Acts 4:36,37</p> <p>Apostle</p> <p>a person sent by another; a messenger; envoy. This word is once used as a descriptive designation of Jesus Christ, the Sent of the Father (Hebrews 3:1; John 20:21). It is, however, generally used as designating the body of disciples to whom he entrusted the organization of his church and the dissemination of his gospel, "the twelve," as they are called (Matthew 10:1-5; Mark 3:14; 6:7; Lu 6:13; 9:1). We have four lists of the apostles, one by each of the synoptic evangelists (Matthew 10:2-4; Mark 3:16; Luke 6:14), and one in the Acts (Acts 1:13). No two of these lists, however, perfectly coincide.</p> <p>Our Lord gave them the "keys of the kingdom," and by the gift of his Spirit fitted them to be the founders and governors of his church (John 14:16,17,26; 15:26,27; 16:7-15). To them, as representing his church, he gave the commission to "preach the gospel to every creature" (Mt 28:18-20). After his ascension he communicated to them, according to his promise, supernatural gifts to qualify them for the discharge of their duties (Acts 2:4;</p>
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	<p>1 Corinthians 2:16,7,10,13; 2Co 5:20; 1 Corinthians 11:2). Judas Iscariot, one of "the twelve," fell by transgression, and Matthias was substituted in his place (Acts 1:21). Saul of Tarsus was afterwards added to their number (Acts 9:3-20; 20:4; 26:15-18; 1Ti 1:12; 2:7; 2Ti 1:11).</p> <p>Luke has given some account of Peter, John, and the two Jameses (Acts 12:2,17; 15:13; 21:18), but beyond this we know nothing from authentic history of the rest of the original twelve. After the martyrdom of James the Greater (Acts 12:2), James the Less usually resided at Jerusalem, while Paul, "the apostle of the uncircumcision," usually traveled as a missionary among the Gentiles (Galatians 2:8). It was characteristic of the apostles and necessary (1) that they should have seen the Lord, and been able to testify of him and of his resurrection from personal knowledge (John 15:27; Acts 1:21,22; 1 Corinthians 9:1; Acts 22:14,15). (2.) They must have been immediately called to that office by Christ (Luke 6:13; Galatians 1:1). (3.) It was essential that they should be infallibly inspired, and thus secured against all error and mistake in their public teaching, whether by word or by writing (John 14:26; 16:13; 1 Thessalonians 2:13).</p> <p>(4.) Another qualification was the power of working miracles (Mark 16:20; Acts 2:43; 1 Corinthians 12:8-11). The apostles therefore could have had no successors. They are the only authoritative teachers of the Christian doctrines. The office of an apostle ceased with its first holders.</p> <p>In 2 Corinthians 8:23 and Philipians 2:25 the word "messenger" is the rendering of the same Greek word, elsewhere rendered "apostle."</p>
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APOSTLE

A messenger or envoy. The term is applied to Jesus Christ, who was God's envoy to save the world, Hebrews 3:1; though, more commonly, the title is given to persons who were envoys commissioned by the Savior himself.

The apostles of Jesus Christ were his chief disciples, whom he invested with authority, filled with his Spirit, entrusted particularly with his doctrines and services, and chose to raise the edifice of his church. They were twelve in number, answering to the twelve tribes. Matthew 19:28, and were plain, unlearned men, chosen from the common people. After their calling and charge, Matthew 10:5-42, they attended their divine Master, witnessing his works, imbibing his spirit, and gradually learning the facts and doctrines of the gospel. After his resurrection, he sent them into all the world, commissioned to preach, to baptize, to work miracles, etc. See John 15:27; 1 Corinthians 9:1; 15:8; 2Co 12:12; 1 Thessalonians 2:13. The names of the twelve are, Simon Peter; Andrew, his brother; James, the son of Zebedee, called also "the greater;" John, his brother; Philip; Bartholomew; Thomas; Matthew, or Levi; Simon the Canaanite; Lebbeus, surnamed Thaddeus, also called Judas or Jude; James, "the less," the son of Alphaeus; and Judas Iscariot, Matthew 10:2-4; Mark 3:16; Luke 6:14. The last betrayed his Master, and then hanged himself, and Matthias was chosen in his place, Acts 1:15-26. In the Acts of the Apostles are recorded the self-sacrificing toils and sufferings of these Christlike men, who did that which was "right in the sight of God" from love to their Lord; and gave themselves wholly to their work, with

	<p>a zeal, love, and faith Christ delighted to honor-teaching us that apostolic graces alone can secure apostolic successes.</p> <p>Acts 4:36 And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus,</p> <p>Acts 9:27 But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.</p> <p>Acts 14:14 Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out,</p> <p>Acts 15:2 When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.</p> <p>Acts 15:22 Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren: (KJV)</p> <p>COMMENTARY ON ACTS 14:14</p> <p>Verse 14. Which when the apostles. Barnabas is called an apostle because he was sent forth by the church on a particular message, Acts 13:3; comp. Acts 14:26; not because he had been chosen to the peculiar work of the apostleship--to</p>
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	<p>bear witness to the life and resurrection of Christ. See Barnes for Acts 1:22</p> <p>They rent their clothes. As an expression of their abhorrence of what they were doing, and of their deep grief that they should thus debase themselves by offering worship to men. See Barnes for Matthew 26:65.</p> <p>{e} "rent their clothes" Matthew 26:65</p> <p>Acts 1:20 For it is written in the Book of Psalms, "Let his estate become forsaken, and he not be living in it." And, "Let another take his overseership." 21 Therefore, it is right that one of these men who have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus came in and went out among us, 22 beginning from the baptism of John to that same day that He was taken up from us, to become a witness with us of His resurrection. 23 And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.</p>
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HELL

-(In the A. V. this word occurs in O. T. Scriptures, cited below, and is the translation of the Hebrew word "sheol," which signifies the unseen state) -In the R. V. of O. T. it appears only in

Isaiah 5:14; 14:9,15; 28:15,18; 57:9; Ezekiel 31:16,17; 32:21,27; Amos 9:2; Jonn 2:2; Habakkuk 2:5

-In the R. V., "sheol" is translated "lowest pit"
Deuteronomy 32:22; Psalms 86:13

-And it is translated "pit" in

Palms 55:15

-In the R. V. the word "Sheol" itself occurs in the following scriptures

2 Samuel 22:6; Job 11:8; 26:6; Palms 9:17; 16:10; 18:5; 116:3; 139:8;
Proverbs 5:5; 7:27; 9:18; 15:11,24; 23:14; 27:20

-"Sheol" is translated "grave" in A. V. in

Genesis 37:35; 42:38; 44:29,31; 1 Samuel 2:6; 1 Kings 2:6; 9:1-28; Job 7:9;
14:13; 17:13; 21:13; 24:19; Palms 6:5; 30:3; 31:17; 49:14,15; 88:3; 89:48; 141:7;
Proverbs 1:12; 30:16; Ecclesiastes 9:10; Song of Solomon 8:6; Hosea 13:14

-In the R. V. the Greek word "gehenna" is translated "hell" in the following scriptures

Matthew 5:22,29,30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15,33; Mark 9:43,45,47; Luke 12:5;
James 3:6

-The R. V. has introduced "Hades," the word found in the Greek text, which signifies the unseen world, in the following scriptures

Matthew 11:23; 16:18; Luke 10:15; 16:23; Acts 2:27,31; Revelation 1:18; 6:8;
20:13,14

-THE FUTURE HOME OF THE WICKED

Palms 9:17; Proverbs 5:5; 9:13,15-18; 15:24; 23:13,14; Isaiah 30:33; 33:14;
Matthew 3:12; 5:29,30; 7:13,14; 8:11,12; 10:28; 13:30,38-42,49,50; 16:18;
18:8,9,34,35; 22:13; 25:28-30,41,46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 3:17; 16:23-26,28; Acts
1:25; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6-23; Revelation 2:11; 9:1,2; 11:7;
14:10,11; 19:20; 20:10,15; 21:8

- See WICKED, PUNISHMENT OF
WICKED (PEOPLE)

The Aaronic Priesthood

(December 5, 2006)

<p>In our discussion last week concerning hell, I made the comment that in the end, the Bible tells us that we will not remember those from our earth life who are in hell.</p>	<p>Passages in Isaiah and Ecclesiastes too.</p> <p>Revelation 21:4 <i>"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."</i></p>	<p>(4) Hell follow-up</p>
<p>Suppose a young teenage girl has a dream one night.</p> <p>The next day she sees a picture of a baby in a fashion magazine with curly red hair. And though it doesn't look anything like the baby of her dreams, she tears the ad out and pastes it in a journal as a memento, a reminder of her dream.</p> <p>The following day, she takes a picture of a basketball from Sports Illustrated pastes it in the same journal.</p>	<p>She dreams she is going to be a mother some day and that her baby will have curly red hair.</p> <p>Years pass, and the same girl has another dream where her child becomes a world class basketball player.</p> <p>In her twenties, when the girl is engaged to be</p>	<p>Teenage girl</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- curly red hair- picture in her journal.- basketball dream- pastes picture- doctor dream

<p>She wakes the next morning and sees an ad in a magazine with a picture of a stethoscope. So she cuts it out and pastes it in a journal.</p> <p>We're going to talk about the Aaronic Priesthood tonight – the function and purpose of it in the Bible and the way the LDS church has applied it in their religion today.</p> <p>The story I just told will help illustrate the futility, <i>even the banality</i>, of a reinstituted priesthood today relative to the living reality of Jesus in true believers.</p> <p>How?</p>	<p>married, she has another dream that the son she will bear will become a medical doctor someday.</p> <p>Ultimately, the girl marries, and within a few years has her first child. It's a boy with curly red hair.</p> <p>Where should the young woman's attentions go now that she has a living child?</p> <p>Well suppose our young Mother, who has now been blessed with the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - pastes ad. - has baby - Where should her attentions go now? <p>(7) Topic intro.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mother ignores
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	<p>actual fulfillment of her dreams – a living breathing curly red headed baby – spends the majority of her time as a mother staring at the pictures she cut from the magazines instead of with her actual boy?</p> <p>Instead of a progressive living attachment to her son, she instead lights candles in a weekly processional to the images of him and ritualistically places flowers at the foot of the images which have merely foreshadowed the coming of her son.</p> <p>This would not only be a strange and weird practice, it would mock the very life of the living child, right?</p> <p>It would be a case where <u>the idea</u>, <u>the image</u>, and <u>the foreshadowing</u> of the object has a greater place in her heart than the living object itself!</p> <p>I mean, the boy gets drafted into the NBA, is playing on television, and setting records all over the place but the mother believes the picture of the basketball is still needed, important, and significant!</p>	<p>living Son.</p> <p>Rituals tied to pictures in her journal.</p> <p>Strange and mocks life of living child!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - image more important than the reality. - boy NBA
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<p>The Bible is perfectly clear on why an Aaronic Priesthood was established – it was all a foreshadowing of something to come and to be fulfilled by Jesus Christ!</p> <p>Once again, the Levitical priesthood was established in anticipation, and as a type, of what Jesus would finally and ultimately do for each of us.</p> <p>Reestablishing the Aaronic priesthood is akin to a bakery making delicious pies but putting all the focus on the tins that were used instead of the pies themselves!</p>	<p>Does this make any sense?</p> <p>And perhaps most importantly, how would these ritualistic behaviors of the mother make the son feel about his mother's relationship to him?</p>	<p>- how does the boy feel?</p> <p>(8) Biblical Priesthood</p>
<p>Now I have to make an admission here that will go a long way in giving my LDS critics some ammunition against my ministry.</p> <p>When I was growing up in the</p>		<p>(9) personal perspective</p>

<p>Church I NEVER, EVER resonated to the incessant promotion of what they pushed on us as “the priesthood.”</p> <p>Phrases like:</p> <p>“You are a holder of the Aaronic or Holy Melchezidek priesthood” never had an effect on me. Even when I wanted them to.</p> <p>I never felt it an honor to “hold” the priesthood, nor did I find myself grateful, in awe of, or more “imbued with God’s power” because was allowed to “have” it.</p> <p>This admission is going to get my critics to say, “See, see! He never had a testimony in the first place!”</p> <p>But I mention my heart here because I am sure there are many more LDS men (and women) who have had the same response to the promotion of “priesthood” – and they aren’t sure why.</p> <p>It’s sort of like “the king’s new clothing” story.</p> <p>Everyone is like, “Yes, the priesthood, oh, yes, the priesthood,” but in the end, it’s a concept that stands there naked and quite transparent in the marketplace of faith.</p> <p>To me, the “priesthood” is the religious equivalent of having been accepted into an all</p>		
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<p>men's hunting lodge or belonging to a respectable fraternal organization.</p> <p>It's an elite group of like-minded, like acting, and like dressing males, which operates under a collective of prescribed standards and rules.</p> <p>Yes, you are part of an elite "team." And being admitted, you are expected to behave the way team members behave . . .</p> <p>. . . but in the end, the "power," "ability" and the "authority" to "act in God's name" is markedly inferior to those men who simply walk, live, and operate by humble faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.</p> <p>When I came to understand what the "priesthood" was (biblically) I also came to see the honesty of never being impressed with "holding it" in the first place!</p>		
<p>So let's look at a contextual understanding of the Aaronic "priesthood" in terms of the Old and New Testament.</p>		<p>SEQUE</p>
	<p>With Adam, man was his own priest and presented his own sacrifices to God.</p> <p>Recall the story of Cain and Abel.</p>	<p>(10) Priesthood since the beginning</p>

<p>When Moses led the Children of Israel out of Egypt, the ancient manner of “head of household priests” was still being observed by them.</p> <p>At Mount Sinai, a change in this ancient practice was made.</p> <p>Exodus 28 teaches us that God had a “hereditary priesthood” take over. And the “heritage” that the priesthood came through was from the tribe of Levi.</p> <p>Why the Levites?</p> <p>Exodus 32:26 says it was because of their “<i>zeal for the glory of God.</i>”</p> <p>Two important things to remember:</p>	<p>Afterwards the office of priest went to the male head of each family.</p> <p>We find that Noah, (Genesis 8:20) Abraham, (Genesis 12:7) Isaac, (Genesis 26:25) Jacob, (Genesis 31:54) and Job (Job 1:5) <u>all</u> offered sacrifice to God without intermediation of a priest.</p> <p>The first time the word “priest” is used in the Bible is when it is applied to Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18). And we’re going to talk about Melchizedek next week.</p>	<p>(11) Moses</p>
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<p>First, there were priests and high priests. The Levitical lineage determined the two.</p> <p>Second, Levi had three sons whose names were Gershon Merari and Kohath</p> <p>Kohath had a son named Amram, and Amram had sons named Aaron and Moses.</p> <p>ONLY those who came from the Levi/Kohath/Amram/ Aaron line could be high priests.</p> <p>The rest of the lines of Levi - meaning the offspring of Gershon and Merari - acted as subordinates to Aaron's line in the their temple duties, but they could not be officiating priests.</p> <p>Let me blow your mind here – not even JESUS himself, being from the tribe of Judah, could officiate in the Levitical priesthood.</p> <p>Hebrews 7:14 <i>For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.</i></p> <p>Okay . . . you got all that so far?</p>	<p>Now Joseph Smith claimed that while he and Oliver Cowdery were translating the Book of</p>	<p>LEVITES</p> <p>Mind blower!</p>
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	<p>Mormon in May of 1829, that they retired to the woods and had John the Baptist appear and give them this very elite Aaronic priesthood!</p> <p>Numbers 3 says ONLY the Levites could hold this priesthood or the result would be death!</p> <p>But Joseph claims John the Baptist shows up and gives it to him!</p> <p>This is a complete misapplication and misappropriation of the what the Aaronic Priesthood even means!</p> <p>And what do the LDS do with this Levitical priesthood today?</p> <p>They claim to give it to all male members between the ages of twelve and eighteen!</p> <p>It is pure misappropriation!</p> <p>But . . .</p> <p>Numbers 4:3 <i>Take the sum of the sons of Kohath from among the sons of Levi, according to their families, by their fathers' house, from thirty years old and upward even to fifty years, all that enter into the service, to do the work in</i></p>	<p>LDS Misapplication</p> <p>All LDS males 12-18 years old!</p>
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	<p><i>the tabernacle of the congregation.</i></p> <p>Now I want you to imagine something for a moment:</p> <p>Aaron and his sons are called by God to officiate in the Levitical Priesthood. And they so do with extreme dedication and devotion.</p> <p>This was so serious a call that when two of Aarons sons mingled strange fire outside the temple, God torched them to death in front of all of the children of Israel!</p> <p>Now imagine for a minute that Aaron somehow visits the earth. And he visits an LDS ward, and discovers a dozen or two or three boys, between 12 and 18, chewing gum and doing God knows what the night before, all claiming to hold this priesthood which he and his family dedicated their everything to thousands of years before?</p> <p>Are you beginning to see where the error is in this Aaronic priesthood application?</p>	<p>Aaron visits an LDS church!</p>
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	<p>It is simply another evidence of Joseph Smith reaching out and applying biblical truths “selectively and inappropriately.”</p> <p>Now, how were these priests prepped to do use this priesthood (that is supposedly given to twelve year old boys in Mormonism today!)</p> <p>They went through an arduous and cumbersome process of purification which you can read about in Leviticus chapter 8.</p> <p>This process included:</p> <p>A ceremonial washing. Prayer over the head of a bull. Slaying the bull. Sprinkling its blood and offering the sacrifice by burning. Offering bread. Sacrificing two rams.</p> <p>Then the descendent of Aaron would be separated from the people for seven days.</p> <p>And during those seven days more animals would be sacrificed.</p> <p>And then the Aaronic priest would be reintroduced to the</p>	<p>How Aaronic priests were prepared.</p>
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<p>And what did the Sons of Aaron and the Levitical priests do in the tabernacle once they were purified?</p> <p>First, they dressed themselves a very specific and ritualistic fashion for each respective function in which they officiated.</p> <p>Then they attended to a plethora of duties which are meticulously described in (Exodus 27:20,21; 29:38-44; Leviticus 6:12; 10:11; 24:8; Numbers 10:1-10; Deuteronomy 17:8-13; 33:10; and Malachi 2:7) and which ALL pointed to the finished work of Jesus!</p> <p>Let me repeat this:</p> <p>Everything these priest did pointed to the finished work of Jesus.</p> <p>This leads us perhaps the most important point relative to the misapplication of the Aaronic priesthood today by the LDS.</p> <p>the Aaronic priests</p>	<p>congregation.</p> <p>How are LDS boys prepped for their duties in the Aaronic Priesthood?</p> <p>They turn 12 and are interviewed by their bishop.</p>	<p>Priesthood duties</p> <p>But the BIGGEST misapplication</p>
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represented the people before God, and offered the various blood sacrifices *in anticipation of the coming Messiah* on their behalf!

Once a year, on the day of atonement, the high priest . . .

- Who came from the Kohath line of Levi. . .
- Who had to be between 30 and 50 years of age . .
- Who had been purified ritualistically like no other . . .
- Who had to be dressed in severely restricted ways . . .
- Who performed rites and rituals exactly as God commanded him . .

. . . would enter the Holy of Holies alone, and offer sacrifice up to God for the sins of the people.

All of this was done as a type of the Messiah who was to come!

This was the purpose of the Aaronic priesthood.

This was the reason it was on the earth!

Once the ultimate sacrifice occurred by the only true, innocent, and acceptable offering there was no need for an Aaronic priesthood any

<p>more for the Gentiles!</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>Because Jesus offered Himself once and for all as the perfect and final sacrifice and now permanently stands in the Holy of Holies of Heaven as a continual sacrifice for sin!</p> <p>Let me briefly describe what the Aaronic High Priest did and how it is fulfilled in Jesus.</p>		
<p>The tabernacle/temple was composed of three parts (in one building) ☺</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The outer court - The inner court - The Holy of Holies. <p>The outer court was for the gentiles.</p> <p>The inner court was for animal sacrifice, singing, and worship.</p> <p>And the Holy of Holies was separated from the rest of the building by a 5" thick veil.</p> <p>It could ONLY be parted once a year when the Aaronic high priest entered to offer blood sacrifice on the day of atonement.</p>		<p>Inside the Holy of Holies</p>

<p>Inside the Holy of Holies was the Ark of the Covenant which was overshadowed by gold cherubs. In side this Ark was a golden pot of manna, Aaron's budding rod, the tables of the Law, and a golden censer.</p> <p>Before the high priest entered to offer the shed blood of an animal for the covering of sins for the people, he had bells attached to his robe and a rope tied about his waste so in the event he died or passed out, he could be dragged out without defiling the sacred place of God.</p> <p>Now what was the significance of all of this?</p> <p>It all pointed to Jesus and His final work.</p> <p>How?</p> <p>Let's open up the phone lines and then I'll give you the answers: (801) 973-tv20 973-8820</p> <p>Read the Book of Hebrews in its entirety!</p> <p>But let me summarize:</p> <p>1) As the high priest was</p>	<p>(Vernon McGee two teams of mules pulling at opposite directions . . .)</p>	<p>READ THE BOOK OF</p>
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<p>of the right lineage, Jesus was of the perfect lineage – He was God.</p> <p>2) As the high priest entered often to offer sacrifice for the people, Jesus entered once and for all.</p> <p>3) As the high priest entered into the place where God dwelled, Jesus now resides permanently in the Holy place, having offered the perfect sacrifice.</p> <p>4) As the veil once barred all men access to the throne of God, the veil was rent when Jesus died, and now becomes Jesus flesh.</p>	<p>Heb 9:12 <i>Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.</i></p> <p>Heb 9:25 <i>Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;</i></p> <p>Heb 10:12 <i>But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;</i></p>	<h2>HEBREWS</h2>
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<p>From the table, the shewbread, the censur, the manna, and the Levitical priesthood; from the Mercy seat, the Ark of the Covenant, the tabernacle, the Holy of Holies, the veil, and the shed blood of every animal,</p> <p>ALL WAS FINISHED AND FULFILLED IN THE LIFE, DEATH, AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS.</p> <p>There is no need for a continuation of an Aaronic priesthood.</p> <p>There is no need for ritual and rites for salvation.</p> <p>All we need is faith in Jesus, our great and final high priest.</p>	<p>Heb 10:20 <i>By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;</i></p>	
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The Melchizedek Priesthood

(December 12, 2006)

GAMA! Get a Mormon Answer

Last weeks Gama

“Do you believe the LDS prophets and apostles actually meet with Jesus face to face.”

Responses included:

Franklin said:

“They meet him through His spirit. Spirit speaks to spirit and they have His testimony first hand through a spiritual connection.”

Ernie P wrote:

“Every LDS prophet and apostle is a special witness of the Savior. The see and speak with Him as a man speaketh with his friend.”

Then we get the very LDS dodge from one Michael M wrote writes:

“My response to your question about the Apostles is too sacred to discuss! I only wish you had the good sense to leave some things alone.”

I love this stuff! Too sacred to discuss. Paul saw the Lord – was that too sacred to discuss.

Steven saw the Lord – was that too sacred to discuss?

Even Joseph Smith said he saw the Lord – was that too sacred to discuss?

When the LDS say that something is “too sacred to discuss” it’s the religious equivalent of any and every Gnostic game ever played!

“I can’t tell you what happened because,

	<p>because it was just so special, so sacred that I'd have to kill you if I did."</p> <p>Baloney.</p> <p>Special witnesses are supposed to share their witness – that's why the Lord gives them the witness!</p> <p>They don't live in some Gnostic vacuum!</p> <p>See through the rhetoric, my friends.</p> <p>But let me make this clear – I don't care if you call your leaders prophets and apostles. That is your religious choice.</p> <p>I just want the reality on the table. That's all.</p> <p>All right, next weeks GAMA: "Explain spiritual rebirth as you understand it."</p>
<p>We are receiving some very kind requests from people who want to get involved in this ministry but don't know how.</p> <p>Thank you for your interest.</p> <p>There are some things we'll hope you'll consider in this regard:</p>	<p>First, we are in need of your prayers more than anything else.</p> <p>Pray for the states dominant religion to see the light of Jesus in all they do.</p> <p>Pray for the lost to turn on their sets.</p> <p>We also ask that you sharing this show and our website with other people too.</p> <p>Go to our website at www.bornagainmormon.com</p>

	and click on “Getting Involved” for more information
ABUNDANCE OF EMAILS LOADED WITH QUESTIONS	<p>LDS writers get very annoyed with me because I often do not respond to their queries.</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>I am here to share Jesus.</p> <p>I make comparisons to LDS doctrine and the Bible.</p> <p>I can usually tell when someone is writing to learn and when they are writing to argue.</p> <p>I am not hear to argue. Just here to present the facts.</p> <p>When I am silent to respond, the LDS questioner boldly proclaims a victory, throwing arrogant perjoratives at me and telling me I am a fraud because I do not reply to THEM!</p> <p>How dare I not reply to them!</p> <p>Over the past three weeks, I’ve received no less that 28 emails that have accelerated in tone against me.</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>I have not taken the time to cite a comment I made on a show from Boyd K Packer.</p>
<p><u>COMMENT ON HEBREWS 7</u></p> <p>Most things we use in life begin at a “sufficient and acceptable level” then progress to an “advanced and better” state</p>	

later on.

The once black and white television is now a flat screen high definition surround sound.

Concerned parenting skills often go from being typically-but-properly-legalistic to abundantly patient and loving as life moves forward.

Rigid business models often transform into dynamic open-ended applications ready for the masses.

Judaism was a divinely inspired religion that sufficiently expressed an acceptable outward devotion to God.

Just as the Model T was not an extremely comfortable ride, Judaism was not an easy religion to live.

But it was “sufficient and acceptable” for the time and all for things considered.

When Jesus came, fulfilling the Law and the Prophets, and shattering all barriers between man and God, ripping the veil, as it were, by his death, he parked the Model T of religion and introduced the Rolls Royce of Relationship to the world.

This was not an easy thing for the Christian-Jews to readily embrace and we see in scripture that many of them returned to their Model T's, finding the luxurious grace of a relationship with Jesus actually too liberating for their religious hearts and minds.

The Book of Hebrews – found in the New Testament – was written to these Christian-Jews to help them transition into the idea that . . .

<p>Chapter one teaches, among other things, that Jesus is greater than angels.</p> <p>Chapter three teaches that Jesus is greater than Moses.</p> <p>Chapter four teaches that Jesus is greater than the Old Testament priesthood (which we discussed last week).</p> <p>REMEMBER: The content and context of the Book of Hebrews was to show the struggling Christian-Jews, who were equivocating in their faith in the Lord by yearning for their “older model of religion,” that a relationship with Jesus is the superior way.</p> <p>Then in chapter 7 we come upon a reference and comparative to a very mysterious man named Melchizedek.</p>	<p>Jesus is the “better way.” Relationship is a “better way.” Christ is supreme and completely sufficient for salvation.</p> <p>Hebrews teaches that Jesus is superior to angels . . . Jesus is superior to Moses. He was superior to their priests. He was superior to their sacrifices.</p> <p>The Book of Hebrews teaches that Christianity (or a personal relationship with Jesus by faith) surpasses Judaism because it is a “better covenant,” which offers a “better sanctuary,” and a “more sufficient” sacrifice for sin.</p> <p>It seems that whenever there was a mystery</p>
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<p>Last week, we covered the misapplication of the Aaronic Priesthood in the LDS Church.</p> <p>Well, according to a very suspect timeline, somewhere between May of 1829 and June, Joseph said Peter, James, and John visited him and restored what he called the Melchizedek priesthood to the earth.</p> <p>Doctrine and Covenants 84:19-22 reads:</p> <p>“And this greater priesthood administereth the gospel and holdeth the key of the mysteries of the kingdom, even the key of the knowledge of God. Therefore, in the ordinances thereof, the power of God is manifest. And without the ordinances thereof, and the</p>	<p>event or person in the Bible, Joseph Smith offered a rather far-fetched extrabiblical interpretation of its meaning.</p> <p>Consider what he said about John the Beloved and the Three Nephites never dying but living on the earth even in our day.</p> <p>How about Enoch? We know from the Bible he was translated. But little else. Joseph taught that not only was he translated, but a whole city that carried his namesake!</p> <p>If there is a mystery or uncertainty in the text of the Bible, Joseph addressed it, expanded it, and called it truth.</p> <p>Perhaps nothing was expanded more than the role and meaning behind the person called Melchizedek.</p>
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authority of the priesthood, the power of Godliness is not manifest unto men in the flesh; for without this no man can see the face of God, even the Father, and live.”

McKonkie said (Mormon Doctrine pg. 481)

“the presence of absence of this priesthood establishes the divinity or falsity of a professing church!”

He adds

“If there is no Melchizedek priesthood on earth, the true church is not here and the gospel of Christ is not available to men. Where the Melchizedek priesthood is, there is the kingdom, the Church, and the fullness of the Gospel.”

Mormonism teaches that

- That the name Melchizedek was given to this priesthood to avoid to frequent repetition of Deity (D&C 107:2-4)
- Melchizedek was the greatest high priest ever (Alma 13:19)
- That this highest priesthood he offered was “eternal,” meaning God has always operated by it.
- That it was given to Adam and passed down generationally until the Children of Israel, according to McKonkie, “rebelled, rejected the higher law and took Moses and the fullness of the priesthood from them.”
- The Aaronic priesthood then became the authority on earth until Jesus came.
- The Melchizedek priesthood was lost from the earth with the death of the last apostle and was then restored to the earth through Joseph Smith.

<p>Now, I must admit, that without a scriptural backing, this all seems to make some sense.</p> <p>It's orderly. It's processional. There <u>was</u> a biblical person named Melchizedek who was a high priest.</p> <p>Why not go along with it?</p> <p>It gives people meaning, right?</p> <p>It causes men who are otherwise just beasts to be accountable to something, right? "Honorable priesthood bearer" and all that? No harm, no foul?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the LDS Church is the only church/religion that has this power of God here on earth. • Men from 18 years of age and up are in a position to receive this "Holy Melchizedek Priesthood."
<p>When we read the Old Testament, it is vital to understand the use of "types."</p> <p>A type is a figure or representation of something to come.</p>	<p>Well, let's look at a sound Biblical understanding of Melchizedek.</p> <p>EXAMPLES:</p> <p>Egyptian bondage was a type for the bondage of sin.</p> <p>Moses was a type for the Messiah.</p>

	<p>The Exodus was a type for leaving the world behind.</p> <p>The Passover Lamb was a type for the shed blood of Jesus.</p> <p>The Pillar of Fire - Jesus Manna from Heaven - Jesus Water from the Rock - Jesus The Flesh Pots – type for sin The Sacrificial Offerings - Jesus The Festivals and Feasts -Jesus The Brazen Serpent - Jesus</p> <p>Look at the Tabernacle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were three entrances to the <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A gate – Jesus 2. A door - Jesus 3. And a veil – Jesus flesh <p>Seven Articles of Furniture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brazen Altar type of the cross • Laver: Washed clean by Christ • Golden Lamp: Christ is the Light • Table of bread: Jesus bread of life. • Altar of Incense: Jesus our intercessor! • The Mercy Seat <p>One of my favorite types in the OT represents Jesus as all Man and all God.</p> <p>What is the type</p> <p>The Ark of the Covenant.</p> <p>Exodus 25:10-11 And they shall make an ark of acacia-wood . . . And you shall overlay it with pure gold. You shall overlay it inside and out, and shall make on it a crown of gold all around.</p>
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<p>So who was Melchizedek?</p> <p>He was a TYPE of Jesus Christ, not of a priesthood to be handed down like the Levitical priesthood.</p> <p>He was a TYPE of Jesus to come, who would become our high priest forever and ever.</p> <p>Recall that last week, when we explained that prior to Sinai, the patriarchs were the established priests of the land.</p> <p>Then at Sinai, God established a priesthood based on heritage.</p> <p>Melchizedek was a great high priest prior to the establishment of the priesthood based on heritage.</p> <p>So when we combine the idea that</p> <p>1) Melchizedek was a high priest prior to the establishment of the Levitical priesthood</p> <p>AND</p>	<p>Now acacia-wood is gnarled and thorny, representing man.</p> <p>And gold was pure and costly, representing God.</p> <p>The Ark was wood. The Ark was Gold</p> <p>Jesus was All Man. Jesus was All God.</p> <p>Contents of the Ark? Manna, The Law, Aaron's Blossoming Rod</p> <p>Covering of the Ark? The Veil!</p>
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That what he was a figure for our final high priest Jesus Christ . . .

. . . we can then begin to understand what Melchizedek was biblically.

In this context, let's read the few verses written about him.

Genesis 14:18 *And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.*

Secondly, let's look at his name
(Verse 18.) "***And Melchizedek . . .***"

Melchizedek's name in Hebrew is "Malki - tsedek," signifies "my righteous king", or "king of righteousness."

This name he probably had from the pure and righteous administration of his government; and this is one of the characteristics of the Lord, a character which can be applied to him only, as he alone is essentially righteous, and the only Potentate;

First of all, Melchizedek appears to have been a real person who knew the true and living God. Some Christian's think he was a "Christophany" but I think he was living human patriarch.

The Rabbins believed he was quite possibly the man Shem, son of Noah.

What we do know, real or not, is he was a type of Jesus Christ.

but a holy man, such as Melchizedek, might bear this name as his type or representative.

Forth.

And what did Melchizedek bring to Abraham?

“Bread and wine!”

Brothers and sisters, do I need to say more?

This type of Jesus, whose name means king of righteousness,

Third, let's look at “. . . *king of Salem* . . .” (verse 18)

Where was Salem? Massachusetts? No.

Have you ever heard of Jerusalem?

Psalms 76:1,2: "In Judah is God known; his name is great in Israel. In SALEM also is his tabernacle, and his dwelling place in Zion."

“Shalam” signifies to make whole, complete, or perfect, to bring peace. Christ is called the Prince of peace, because, by his incarnation, sacrifice, and mediation, he procures and establishes peace between God and man.

Remember . . .

“Peace on earth good will toward men!”

The Lords residence is peace and quietness and assurance for ever, in every believing upright heart.

He governs as the Prince and Priest of the most high God, ruling in righteousness, mighty to save; and he ever lives to make intercession for, and save to the uttermost all who come unto the Father by him.

There is but one KING of SALEM – Jesus.

whose kingdom is a place called peace, brings bread and wine, the elements of communion, as refreshment to Abraham after a battle made victorious by the True and Living God!

Are you seeing the type?

What other evidences point to Melchizedek being purely a type for Jesus and nothing else?

Let's turn to a second set of passages to help us understand him:

Hebrews 7:1-4

1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem and priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him.

2 To him Abraham also gave a tenth of all. He was first by

Fifth, let's look at Melchizedek's office - *"a priest of the most high God."*

The word "Nhk" or "cohen," signifies an office of both "prince" and "priest" because the patriarchs sustained such a double office at this time.

It has both its root in the Arabic word, "kahana" which signifies "to approach, draw near, have intimate access to; and from hence to officiate as priest before God, and thus have intimate access to the Divine presence.

Melchizedek, being a priest of the most high God, represented Christ in his sacerdotal character.

Even Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek!

*interpretation king of
righteousness, and after that also
king of Salem, which is king of
peace.*

What is the purpose of this? Abraham was certainly at the top of the heap in authority, wasn't he?

Yes. Remember how the Jews regarded Abraham at the time of Jesus?

When John the Baptist preached repentance to the Jews, they would say to him

“We have Abraham for our father.”

And remember what Jesus said to them about Abraham

“Verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.”

Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek as an indication that Jesus' position of authority and power were far above even Father Abraham.

You get it?

Then, verse three in Hebrews 7 says, speaking of Melchizedek, that he was

*3 without father, without mother,
without descent, having neither
beginning of days nor end of life,
but made like the Son of God, he
remains a priest continually.*

Now, you've gotta think here . . . because the payoff is worth it.

If Melchizedek was a real person, did he really not have a father or mother? Did he really not have descendents? Was he really lacking a beginning and an end!?

NO!

But what the writer of Hebrews is saying is

<p>Finally, David gives us some insight into Melchizedek when he writes:</p> <p>Psalm 110:4 <i>The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.</i></p> <p><i>Heb 5:9 And being made perfect, he (JESUS) became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.</i></p> <p>This was not another priesthood. This was a single position that could only be filled by one being – Jesus.</p>	<p>the Word leaves all this out about him!</p> <p>Now ask yourselves why?</p> <p>Because as a type for Jesus, those things make sense.</p> <p>For Jesus is without father or mother or decent!</p> <p>And Jesus really does have no beginning or end of days!</p> <p>Who is this speaking of?</p> <p>LDS men 18 years of age or older OR Jesus Christ, who Melchizedek was a perfect type of from the get go?</p> <p><i>Heb 6:20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedec.</i></p> <p>What forefunner entered the holy of holy for us with his own shed blood? Jesus!</p> <p>And what was Jesus made by God?</p>
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<p>Let me conclude with a few final passages from Hebrews 7:22-27</p> <p>Hebrews 7:22 By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.</p> <p>23 And there truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:</p> <p>24 But this man (Jesus), because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.</p> <p>25 Wherefore he is able also to</p>	<p>Our high priest!</p> <p>After the order of whom? Melchizedek!</p> <p>And what do we know about Melchizedek?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was king of righteousness. • He was the king of peace. • He brought bread and wine to Abraham to refresh Him after a victory won by God. • He had intimate access to God as the great high priest of old. • Abraham acquiesced to him by giving him tithes.. <p>And like Jesus in so many other ways, He was . . .</p> <p><i>without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest continually.</i></p>
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<p>save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.</p> <p>26 For such an high priest came to us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;</p> <p>27 Who needeth not daily, as those first high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.</p>	
	<p>My friends, my LDS brothers and sisters, it ALL points to Jesus now.</p> <p>Drop this mythical Melchizedek priesthood stuff and come to the Only High Priest who you will ever need – Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Go to the passages quoted and start searching.</p> <p>Jesus is real, ready, and waiting to make permanent intercession for you as your ONLY high priest.</p>
<p>CONCLUSION</p> <p>Out of necessity I am going to close with a few remarks about a subject I don't particularly enjoy.</p> <p>We get a number of questions about giving financially to our ministry and it seems I need to make our approach and position clear on the matter.</p>	<p>First, , check out 2nd Corinthians 9:7 <i>Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.</i></p> <p>Please feel no compulsion. Let God be your guide and nothing or no one else.</p>

Diluted Grace

(December 19, 2006)

<p>Hey, I gotta make a correction!</p> <p>Last week we had a person call and ask me about Psalms 82 where it reads:</p> <p>“I have said, Ye are gods, and all of you are children of the most high.”</p>	<p>I made the statement that the lowercase “g” in gods was not translated in the Hebrew as Elohim.</p> <p>It is. I was wrong.</p> <p>But I was correct in the usage of the word.</p> <p>“Elohim” is used in the Hebrew to denote both God and earthly judges! You can find such an example in Exodus 21:6 where it reads:</p> <p><i>Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him for ever.</i></p> <p>Apologies. Just goes to show what a failure I can be.</p>
<p>If you are LDS, I want you to know that I am very well aware that you “believe in Jesus Christ.”</p>	<p>I know you believe He</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- is the Son of God.- That He suffered for the sins of the world.- That he resurrected and overcame the grave. <p>I KNOW YOU BELIEVE THESE THINGS, if not with your whole heart,</p>

<p>Somehow in the conversations between Christians and Latter-day Saints the fact that Mormons embrace Jesus does not getting through and it creates a great amount of frustration for the LDS involved.</p> <p>I get emails that, like a mantra, repeat “But we are Christian. We believe in Jesus Christ. You are so uninformed! I can’t even believe you were ever LDS!” are evidence of this frustration.</p> <p>I thought I would take this show to try and explain the problem here.</p>	<p>than certainly intellectually.</p> <p>And yes, having been deeply involved in Mormonism, I am well aware that His name is even in the title of your church.</p> <p>Email reminders of this are not entirely necessary unless you feel overly inclined.</p> <p>I want you to imagine that you’re holding a cup of Crystal Light powder in your hand.</p> <p>This happens to be lemon.</p> <p>This product represents the grace found through the absolute finished work of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Let me repeat this:</p> <p>This product represents the grace found through the absolute finished work of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>You take off the lid (FUMES) and stick the tip of your tongue in the powder.</p> <p>Powerful, right? Overwhelmingly concentrated.</p>
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<p>Now, imagine that you take the powder and add just a teaspoon of liquid to it – you know – just to make it a little more palatable.</p> <p>It's still powerful, in fact, you've made it <u>more</u> functional by the addition of liquid!</p> <p>But in the end, you have diluted the grace found in the finished work of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>It came to you full of power.</p> <p>It came ready. You added something to it to make it work better for you.</p> <p>Now suppose you pour the perfect powder into a five gallon bucket of water.</p>	<p>Why? Because it <u>hasn't been diluted</u>.</p> <p>Now, let's suppose you add the full amount of liquid to the powder.</p> <p>It's refreshing, it meets the standards set, it is more useable, you might say.</p> <p>Never the less, compared to the pure form, it is been greatly diluted.</p> <p>I call this drink religion today. It is lukewarm. It is acceptable, it refreshes, but it does not have the same power and effect on the individual as the undiluted mix.</p> <p>And though it's widely embraced and consumed, it makes little impact on the lives of individuals.</p> <p>Remember now, we're talking about a relationship of faith and grace based in Jesus here, not a flavored drink mix.</p>
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It becomes very weak, doesn't it.

But the flavoring has been added hasn't it? The flavoring is there, but it is barely detectable.

All right, what if you pour a cup of it into a backyard swimming pool?

You could honestly say that it has been added, couldn't you?

That it is part of the chemical makeup of the water.

You could rightly say that it is there in the mix, and even get insulted when people claim its not.

Finally, let's say you dump the mix into the middle of the Pacific Ocean!

Within minutes it would be diluted to the point of non-existence!

But you could claim its there, couldn't you?

The question is not, "Do you believe in Jesus" or "Are His teachings in your church," or even "Do you recognize Him as the Savior?" The question is

How diluted is your faith in the Grace and Finished Work

Applying our example to the topic at hand, we must remember that Muslims believe and recognize Jesus.

Jehovah's Witnesses, Branch Dividians, and even demons believe in Jesus - some of them even use His name in their worship!

of Jesus Christ?

If believing in the historical Jesus is enough, then everyone but the “Jesus-was-never-a-real-person” people will be saved.

While very generous, it’s not biblical.

If mentioning Him in the body of your theology is enough, then Jehovah’s Witnesses, Islam, and Buddhism should be considered Christian too.

Believing in Jesus, mentioning Jesus, recognizing Jesus is not the same as worshipping and knowing the undiluted Lord.

The more you embrace the grace Jesus gives, the more you walk by faith in Him, and the more able you are able to do the will of the Father, and not of man.

And the more you walk by faith in Him, the more you please God.

Diluted faith in Jesus will not ever save anyone. Diluted faith is, in fact, a tremendous deceptor; a counterfeit that merely gives people the false notion that they know Him, but in reality don’t.

Matthew 7:21 ¶ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

<p>Remember Heb 11:6: <i>“without faith it is impossible to please God.”</i></p>	<p>Let’s go back in time for a moment, and take a look at the historical attempts there have been to dilute the grace that comes through the finished work of Jesus.</p>
<p>In the forth century of our Lord there was this British monk whose name was Pelagius.</p> <p>He grew tired and impatient of the writings of St. Augustine which he thought were too “grace oriented.”</p> <p>Augustine had some unique ideas but he certainly represented Apostolic thought when it came to grace.</p> <p>So in order to show Augustine wrong, Pelagius <i>reintroduced</i> to the world the very natural and humanist idea that human beings achieve salvation by their own efforts.</p> <p>I say, “reintroduced” because this deluded concept was nothing new to the body of Christ.</p>	<p>The idea that human beings could “save themselves” by virtue of their own righteousness was alive and well in the Pharisees when Jesus was on earth.</p> <p>These legalists, with their “creeping moralistic views” believed they could actually get to God by virtue of their outward worthiness, even though their inward parts were full of “dead, dried bones.”</p> <p>Jesus despised such thinking and was not reticent in pointing out the inability of people to reach God by virtue of their</p>

<p>When the rich young ruler came to Jesus and walked away because of his many possessions, the disciples were blown away because Jesus said he would not enter the kingdom of heaven! And he was otherwise a righteous dude!</p> <p>So they cried, "Well who then can be saved?"</p> <p>And Jesus replied, "With man it is impossible. But with God all things are</p>	<p>righteousness.</p> <p>Yet in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said to the people</p> <p><i>"For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."</i></p> <p>What did all this mean?</p> <p>Well the Pharisees were the most outwardly obedient people on earth! They lived the Law – their life was the Law! They spent every waking moment attending to the Law and there is not a gentile alive today who comes near their outward righteousness.</p> <p>How could a person's righteousness exceed the righteousness of the Pharisees?</p> <p>Only by faith in the finished work of Jesus! Because through faith on the only "perfectly righteous One," His righteousness is imputed to us - which righteousness always exceeds that of any Pharisee.</p> <p>Get it?</p>
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possible.”

With “mans works” it is impossible, but by God’s grace - based on faith in the finished work of Jesus - all things are possible.

So back to this guy named Pelagius in the fourth century AD.

His heresy emphasized that sin occurred from “the will” rather than inborn sinfulness. That human beings become sinners by following Adam’s poor example and become holy by following Christ’s good example.

There was no original sin to Pelagius.

Man would be punished for his own sin and not Adam’s transgression.

Everything was by choice, and as a result the need for spiritual rebirth became a response to “individual sins,” absolved through religious sacraments, and not applied to the whole person.

Paul also faced an early attempt to dilute the grace provided by the finished work of Jesus.

Last week we discussed the book of Hebrews and how it was written to the Christian Jews who were tempted to return to the Law because the Grace of God was too difficult for them to understand or embrace.

The entire book is aimed at showing them that faith in the finished work of Jesus is the better way, to not dilute it, and to see faith in Him as the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Pelagianism inflamed the fourth and fifth centuries and was at the crux of the battles fought by Martin Luther, who saw the horrible religious results of any system that diluted the pure message of grace through faith on the finished work of Jesus.

Several hundred years later, new religious leaders started popping up, who, like Pelagius, didn't buy into the undiluted message of salvation by grace and began, once again, to add to the pure and powerful grace provided by Jesus.

These most popular of these movements included:
The Shakers
The Jehovah's Witnesses
The Seventh-day Adventists
The Christian Scientists
And the LDS

All of these presented their diluted – and sometimes fanciful - versions of the “true” gospel of salvation to the world.

Luther saw first hand how the remnants of Pelagianism, which was renounced hundreds of years earlier, corrupted the hearts of otherwise good people by getting them to believe they had to work their own salvation out by virtue of allegiance to an organized religion, strict obedience to rites, rules, and ordinances, and by paying demanded financial obligations to the church to save themselves and their dead.

And so he tacked his 96 thesis on the door at Wittenberg and ignited the reformation.

<p>Why?</p> <p>Whether with good intentions or bad, they all decided, in one way or another, that grace through faith on the finished work of Jesus <u><i>was just not enough.</i></u></p> <p>There HAD to be more to it.</p> <p>And they were going to improve upon it, reinterpret the scriptures about it, and provide the imbalanced world of Christianity with their own special blend of man-made additions.</p> <p>Immanuel Kant, a philosopher who most embodied these beliefs, openly embraced Pelagianism, and recognized Jesus as nothing more than a “good example” of moral duty.</p> <p>“Autonomy” (the rule of the self), seeped into every discipline, including theology, and “the blue ribbon of</p>	<p>With the Age of Enlightenment, modern-day Pelagianists championed “human ability” as the means to overcome the world and obtain sanctification.</p> <p>God became “the moral law giver” but it was Man who possessed the ability to overcome himself.</p> <p>Spires replaced crosses, science replaced faith, and Man, once again, decided he could provide solutions to existential angst, alienation, and sin.</p> <p>With a focus on human achievement, reason, social perfectionism, and ethics over regeneration, Jesus once again was forced into the back seat of many philosophies and religions.</p>
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spirituality” began to be awarded to those who achieved worldly success, intellectual acumen, and the power to overcome human weakness.

The supernatural was soon replaced by the “superman” - the Ubermench, and like Babel, nothing could be kept from human progress.

Nothing but true salvation.

Friedrich Nietzsche, that most disturbed philosopher of Humanism, even pointed out the fact that “when Christian morality is severed from Christian theology,” neither can remain.

In other words, when Christian morals are applied outside of the unique Christian theology of grace, neither will last.

Just look at the Church today.

Being Christian does not first mean being moral. Being Christian first means recognizing your sinful nature and turning to the undiluted grace given to you by faith upon the finished work of Jesus Christ.

Now what does the LDS Church maintain?

In the Bible dictionary, at the back of the LDS Bible, it reads that grace is God’s “enabling power to lay hold on eternal life and exaltation after they have expended their own best efforts.”

This is God’s grace diluted with an ocean full of mans works.

It makes me want to wretch.

<p>Romans 3:28 <i>Therefore we conclude that a <u>man is justified by faith</u> without the deeds of the law.</i></p> <p>Ephesians 2:8 <i>For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.</i></p> <p>Titus 3:5 <i>Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;</i></p> <p>Romans 5:1 ¶ <i>Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:</i></p> <p>John 3:15 <i>That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.</i></p> <p>Romans 3:20 <i>Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight:</i></p>	<p>Spencer W. Kimball said in the Book of Mormon Student Manual (page 36) that “one of the most fallacious doctrines originated by Satan and propounded by man is that man is saved alone by the grace of God; that belief in Jesus Christ alone is all that is needed for salvation.”</p> <p>This man is held up in the highest of esteem by the LDS, and like Pelagius, like the Pharisees, like Kant and Nietzsche, he flat out contradicts the Bible’s saving message of Grace!</p> <p>Which is . . . ?</p>
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John 11:25 *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.*

Galatians 2:16

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

There is certainly a great attraction toward Pelagianism in the heart of Man even today.

It makes us feel good to take our salvation into our own hands.

It makes sense to the unregenerated heart that we can please God by our efforts and thereby secure a place with him after this life.

But all this configuring does is dilute the power and majesty of what Jesus did once and for all to them that believe.

Grace cannot be grace if it is combined with anything else.

There is no salvation by grace AND works.

Romans 11:6

And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

There are always LDS comebacks to this biblical truth.

	<p>The most popular say:</p> <p><i>Well we have to do something?</i></p> <p>OR</p> <p><i>Faith without works is dead?</i></p> <p>OR</p> <p><i>You can't just say I accept Jesus and sin like there's no tomorrow!</i></p> <p>Before we go to the phones – (801) 973-8820 973-TV20 Let me address each of these common responses individually.</p>
<p>First, there's the idea that "we have to do something."</p>	<p>What do you want to do? What can you do but believe? What can you add to the formula provided for your salvation that hasn't already been taken care of by Jesus?</p> <p>There is nothing you can do that will get God to save you "more." Nothing.</p> <p>There is nothing you can do to get God to love you "more."</p> <p>God's love for you is uncaused by you.</p> <p>Here's the thing:</p> <p>God sees you through the shed blood of the son. Period. You are either covered or your not. You have either embraced Him by faith or you have not. If you're covered, you're saved, and rewarded according to your works, if you're not covered, you're damned, and you go to hell.</p>

<p>#2 “But faith without works is dead.”</p>	<p>Your “doings” and “works” and contributions will be seen for what they are in God’s eyes - “Filthy rags” – unless they are done with a heart solely dedicated to Him.</p> <p>You cannot hide your motives from God.</p> <p>But remember, by faith we should have</p> <p>Heb 10:19 ¶ . . . <i>boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,</i> <i>20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;</i> <i>21 And having an high priest over the house of God;</i> <i>22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.</i> <i>23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering.</i></p> <p>Glory awaits all them that have faith in the undiluted grace provided by the finished work of Jesus.</p> <p>This is possibly the most repeated verse in the repertoire of LDS Bible verses.</p> <p>“Faith without work is dead.”</p> <p>Recognize the order here:</p> <p>“Faith . . .”</p> <p>James is talking about faith here. He is talking about how our faith is seen to exist before men, not how the</p>
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<p>And the third response is usually something like:</p> <p>Well, you can't just say "I accept Jesus" and sin like there's no tomorrow!</p>	<p>presentation of works definitively prove faith before God!</p> <p>Do you see the difference, here?</p> <p>Listen to what Paul says about the relationship of works in his life that came as a result of his understanding grace.</p> <p>1st Corinthians 15:10 <i>But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.</i></p> <p>I had an LDS Bishop once tell me that "90% of the work in the Church is just showing up even though you don't want to even be there!"</p> <p>When I discovered the grace of Jesus I not only wanted show up, but I wanted to serve, and give, and give away my entire life for Him each and every day!</p> <p>Ninety percent is just showing up. Ninety percent of hell is just showing up.</p> <p>I work a thousand times harder for God as a born-again Christian than I ever did as a committed Mormon.</p> <p>Do you see the difference?</p> <p>Anyone I have ever known who comes to know the genuine grace of Jesus in their lives does anything but "sin like there's no tomorrow."</p>
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<p>The Pharisees, the Judaizers, Pelagius, and Kant got it all wrong.</p> <p>They missed the point.</p> <p>So did Joseph Smith and Spencer W. Kimball, among others.</p> <p>We are saved by grace through faith on the finished work of Jesus.</p> <p>Nothing added at all.</p>	<p>Whenever someone makes this statement all it tells me is that they have absolutely no idea what it personally means to have been saved by the grace of God through faith on Jesus.</p> <p>They think it's actually something that is just "said."</p> <p>Romans 6 is a fantastic chapter on the relationship between grace and sin.</p> <p>The idea that people accept Jesus and then sin on is a heinous and gross perversion of the reality of the born-again experience and I've yet to meet a true Christian who believes it is alright to sin in any way.</p> <p>What's fascinating however, is that those people who embrace a modified version of Grace are the ones who actually justify sin the most!</p>
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Why History is Important

(January 2, 2007)

<i>First, who the heck am I?</i>	<p>Was born in the covenant Served Mission to Harrisburg PA. Married LA Temple Father of three daughters Active in LDS church up until 2001</p>
<i>What happened?</i>	<p>I always knew myself to be a sinner - if not with my hands, then in my head and heart.</p> <p>Could not find peace in an honest open relationship with God in spite of all my outward appearances and attempts at being holy and good and worthy.</p> <p>1997 came to know Jesus at the side of the road.</p> <p>Was unquestionably and miraculously born-again.</p> <p>Besides being miraculous, I recognized something about the experience - it was not found or discussed in the LDS church!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- given new life- new perspective- certain of my place with God relationship with Him.- remained LDS four more years.- 2001 asked to be excommunicated from Church. <p>In 2002, wrote a book called Born-Again Mormon: Moving Toward Christian Authenticity.</p>

<p>(GRAFIX AND HIGHLIGHT) Born-again Mormon: Moving Toward Christian Authenticity</p> <p>In 2004 started an internet site (5000 hits per month to over 10,000 per day - all without links!)</p> <p>In March of 2006, I hosted our first live show here in SLC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - broadcast to much of Utah and Boise Idaho. - recently picked up and airing through faith TV in Florida <p>PEOPLE ASK . . . <i>Well, why do you do this show?</i></p> <p><i>Why have you chosen to pick on Mormonism?</i></p>	<p>Wanted to help my family and my LDS brothers and sisters understand the difference between a relationship with Jesus and religion.</p> <p>Then in 2004 I entered the Calvary Chapel School of Ministry in Costa Mesa, CA. and graduated in Summer of 2006.</p> <p>The primary purpose of the show is to introduce Latter-day Saints - and any other viewers - to the importance and miracle of spiritual rebirth.</p> <p>It is to introduce Mormonism to the Biblical Jesus.</p> <p>It is to compare and contrast Biblical Christianity with present-day Mormonism.</p> <p>Few reasons:</p> <p><i>First</i>, the Lord wants me to. He</p>
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<p><i>And what do you hope to achieve?</i></p>	<p>opened the door then put it on my heart. He prepared me, opened the way, and I just try and follow.</p> <p>As a man, I am nobody - a sinner and a failure - but God has permitted me to experience things in such a way that I am now prepared to speak the way He wants me to speak. And so I do.</p> <p><i>Second</i>, I have a heart for the LDS. I was LDS, my family is LDS, I know Mormonism. And knowing Mormonism, I know most of my brothers and sisters do not understand spiritual rebirth.</p> <p>And also know that in Mormonism there is no room for the fall outs of society, for the weak-willed, the different, the broken toys, the sinners.</p> <p>I think this is an appalling situation considering that the LDS church calls itself Christian.</p> <p>This is a show where Jesus is preached, not religion.</p> <p><i>Third</i>, I've come to know the Bible, and what it represents, is very different from what LDS doctrine claims the "gospel" to be.</p> <p>When Mormonism stops claiming to be "Christian," I will cease to show them why they are not.</p> <p>We have a - constant motive, a persistent objective, and a long-term dream.</p>
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	<p>The constant motive is to help bring as many people as will hear to the Lord via spiritual rebirth.</p> <p>The persistent objective is to strengthen the Body of Christ with a presentation of rational and realistic Christianity - first in Utah, then in the nation, and finally to the world.</p> <p>The long term dream is to see Mormonism become accepted in the Body of Christ after it has abandoned everything that is NOT Biblically supported.</p>
<p>We are going to spend all 52 weeks of 2007 in a study of the LDS history - what I call "unheard Mormonism."</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>Why spend time regurgitating the unspoken past of Mormonism when it is behind us and much of it is no longer observed?</p> <p>FACT #1 <i>Knowing history leads to understanding present-day practices and doctrines.</i></p>	<p>Well let's take a minute this evening and discuss why examining the LDS past is an important activity for any Latter-day Saint seeking truth.</p> <p>I'd like to do this by presenting a series of facts for your consideration.</p> <p>Respected scholars of almost any field are typically very well versed in the</p>

<p>FACT #2</p> <p><i>Squarely facing the factual history of a matter is a sign of mature thinking - which leads to mature faith.</i></p> <p><i>Ignoring, denying, or refusing to hear historical facts is immature and creates "bad faith."</i></p> <p>Story of the drinking youth.</p>	<p>history of their specialty.</p> <p>The history of the steam engine may be of great benefit to understanding modern day jet propulsion.</p> <p>The more a physician understands about the history of cancer treatments the more she or he will understand modern treatments - if not the cures.</p> <p>Ignoring the history of any field, practice or movement is an obvious handicap to the true understanding of it - especially in religion.</p> <p>To truly understand Islam and the Koran, it would be wise to get to know as much as we could about Mohammed and the history of his life.</p> <p>It is extremely important to therefore understand the motive behind any religion that warns you about researching and studying the genuine history of its past.</p> <p>Facing facts is not difficult or painful.</p> <p>Facing facts about something we love or appreciate is what is hard.</p> <p>Very few people enjoy hearing negative truths about the people and things they love.</p>
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In order to address a problem, we have to be willing to hear the facts of the problem first.

Faith is not honored in a state of self-imposed ignorance.

Faith is honored when God's will is obeyed in light of the facts.

But the facts must be known. And in order for them to be known, they must be heard!

It must be heard.

Do you know what one side of information is called?

PROPAGANDA

Only when a person has heard all sides of a situation and then chooses are they truly choosing.

Otherwise they are being conned,
manipulated, and cheated from the truth
of a matter.

This is never, ever good or right.

Most organized religions have some pretty ugly skeletons in their closets.

Catholicism is horrific.

I've got a photograph at my house of William Taze Russell with a Christmas cone on his head at a Christmas party AFTER the JW'S stopped celebrating it.

And Christian history stinks.
It just reeks with human evil!

But the biblical history of the Church gives hope and certainty that God is in charge of His Church.

Just read Acts 2

Ignoring, spinning, and hiding LDS Church history is just in epic proportions.

You know, it's a . . . "don't let the truth get in the way of a good story," kind of deal.

Genuine seekers of truth must exhibit a relentless quest to know the truth at all costs and strive to resist the inertia and entropy of modern life - especially modern religious life.

The real challenge for any seeker of truth is to investigate the things they both love *and* mistrust as objectively and thoroughly as possible.

Finally, FACT #3

*Knowing the history of something
lends to greater allegiance,
confidence, and trust in the thing that
is known.*

Not knowing the history creates wonderment and suspicion, and it opens a believer up to being manipulated and/or hurt by others.

Imagine, for a moment that you are interested in purchasing a high-rise apartment building in the middle of a large city.

The building is 50 years old, and just wonderfully ornate.

You ask for the ledgers and written history of the building. You request the blueprints.

But the property management explains that all the blueprints and history of the building were destroyed in a fire.

<p>At this point you would have a choice to make.</p> <p>You could not listen to the rumors and continue on as you have. After all, the building has stood firm all these years.</p> <p>You could listen to the rumors and start researching the buildings history for yourself.</p> <p>You could move yourself and family out or you could wait to verify all the information.</p>	<p>You are very disappointed and consider dropping the deal but the management says</p> <p>“Why this building has stood for 50 years without a problem.”</p> <p>“Why this building is a landmark of class and taste.”</p> <p>“Why this building has provided years of shelter and protection to the best of families.”</p> <p>Everything appears top notch. And so you pay top dollar for the building and love it so much that you even move in to the top floor with your family.</p> <p>Now let’s suppose you begin to hear rumors about the property.</p> <p>Rumors that it was built on an Indian graveyard with a lousy foundation.</p> <p>Rumors that it was made with inferior steel girders.</p>
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<p>The point is, knowing the history would have provide you with greater peace, assurance, and trust in the property in the first place . . .</p> <p>. . . and NOT knowing the history has not only lead to doubt, suspicions, and worry, but it could, possibly even mean the difference between life and death for you, your family, and hundreds of others!</p>	<p>When Mormonism says, “Joseph Smith restored the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the earth as the living prophet of the restoration” a member of the Church has some decisions to make -</p> <p>They can say . . .</p> <p>1) “If the Church says He is a prophet then I don’t need any more evidence than that.”</p> <p><i>or they could also say</i></p> <p>2) “Okay. Let me read up on him and his history and see what it has to say about him?”</p> <p>Now if the second path is chosen - “to read up on Joseph Smith and his life” - then a new question arises -</p> <p>“What do I read?”</p>
<p>The LDS Church says</p> <p>“Don’t read anything contrary to the what the Church teaches. It isn’t trustworthy. It comes from enemies and is full of lies.”</p> <p>And what does it recommend you to read?</p> <p>“Their histories!”</p>	

<p>Their single sided, white-washed, partially presented points of propaganda!</p> <p>How do we know this to be true? Read the Church manuals. Read their in-house presentations of truth.</p> <p>What do they present?</p> <p>Partial truths. Partial history. Partial information.</p> <p>To only read what the Church provided would be no different than trusting the property owners that the opinions that the building is safe.</p> <p>It would be, as the Amish say, like "buying a pig in a poke."</p> <p>Or an unseen pig tied up in a gunny sack.</p>	
	<p>We are going to spend 2007 studying the history and blue prints of the LDS Church.</p> <p>We know that in so doing, we are going to help LDS people</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Understand many of the unheard facts about the religion they claim is true. 2) Mature in their faith. 3) Learn that trust should only be in Jesus - and no one or nothing else.

Contributors to the Faith

(January 16, 2007)

If a person who had attentively sat through all the recommended meetings of the LDS church from cradle to grave were asked to compose a paragraph, based on what they've been taught, how Mormonism came to be, they would in all probability write something like this:

"The Lord took an uneducated and humble boy and amidst great trial and personal sacrifice on his part, restored the true and living Gospel of Jesus Christ back to the earth through divine revelation."

This is important to think about because in essence, this is how Mormonism is portrayed to have originated.

Single sided, sugar-coated presentations of wooden characters are very easy to embrace.

The more complex the issue or person becomes, the more difficulty it is to think of things in simplistic terms of black and white.

And when complex information leads to complex thought, organized religions are generally not too pleased.

In describing the complex nature of Joseph Smith alone, D. Michael Quinn, noted Church historian and author writes in *The Mormon Hierarchy: Origins of Power*:

"Few Mormons today can grasp the polarizing charisma of their founding prophet. Some may feel uncomfortable

<p>In <i>Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions</i>, Christian writer John Donne wrote the famous lines</p> <p>“No man is an island . . . entire of itself”</p> <p>Perhaps this statement is no more true than when applying it to the purposes, perspectives, and products of the founder of Mormonism, Joseph Smith,</p>	<p>when confronted with the full scope of Joseph Smith’s activities as youthful mystic, treasure seeker, visionary, a loving husband who deceived his wife regarding about forty of his polygamous marriages, a man for whom friendship and loyalty meant everything but who provoked disaffection by “testing” the loyalty of his devoted associates, an anti-Mason who became a master Mason, church president who physically assaulted both Mormons and non-Mormons for insulting him, a devoted father who loved to care for his own children and those of others, temperance leader and social drinker, Bible revisionist and esoteric philosopher, city planner, pacifist and commander-in-chief, student of Hebrew and Egyptology, bank president, jail escapee, healer, land speculator, mayor, judge and fugitive from justice, guarantor of religious freedom but limiter of freedom of speech and press, preacher and street wrestler, polygamist and advocate of women’s rights, husband of other men’s wives, a declared bankrupt who was the trustee in trust of church finances, political horse- trader, U.S. presidential candidate, abolitionist, theocratic king, inciter to riot, and unwilling martyr.”</p>
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Junior.

In my opinion, and for better or worse, he was indeed one of the greatest religious synthesizers to ever live.

Over the next 50 weeks we are going to attempt to share many of the unspoken things which I believe contributed to the “person and product” of Joseph Smith Jr.

When I say person, I mean the make-up of the man.

When I say “product” I mean all the things he generated then called it truth.

Try and imagine, if you can, the things I am sharing in a “reasonable” context.

I recently watched a DVD that attempted to depict part of Church history through a fictionalized story.

It was just plain sugar-coated and was frankly hilarious.

Whenever Joseph Smith and his followers were on screen, their personal surroundings looked like a scene from a Burl and Ives painting.

(Imagine the lodge at Sundance Ski Resort or Deer Valley and you’ll get the picture.)

On the other hand, the trouble makers in the film – or those who opposed Joseph - were always depicted as filthy rat-men living somewhere along the boulevards of shame, drink, and squalor.

Listen to this description by one Josiah Quincy Jr. who visited Joseph Smith in 1844.

Finding a group of “rough looking Mormons” waiting at a house, Quincy wrote:

“Pre-eminent among the stragglers by the door stood a man of commanding appearance, clad in the costume of a journeyman carpenter when about his work. He was a hearty, athletic fellow, with blue eyes standing prominently out upon his light complexion, a long nose, and a retreating forehead. He wore stripped pantaloons, a linen jacket, which had not seen the washtub, and a beard of some three days growth.”

This man was Joseph Smith. And the description is far from any sanitized version you will see in the Church today.

So try and look past the sterilized portraits presented you in Sunday School.

See the surroundings, the poverty, and the reality of the times instead of what romantic revisionists try and make you see.

At the same time, we must be fair and contextual.

Rabid anti-Mormon rhetoric is constantly attempting to paint Joseph Smith as an indolent sloth of vile reputation.

It's just don't think its true. Certainly, he was a man with weaknesses just like you and I, but history shows he was willing to go to extreme measures and suffering in hopes of seeing his “product” through.

<p>In a view that is opposite of what the church presents to its membership, I believe that Joseph Smith and early Mormonism are representations of, and answers to, a host of pressing 19th century social, political, familial, and religious themes.</p> <p>Factors that influenced Joseph and his product include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Smith family itself • the tenor of the community around them. • the political environment of his day. • the religious environment of his times. 	<p>Indolent sloth's rarely see anything through.</p> <p>Understand, after spending an exorbitant amount of time reading and researching Joseph Smith and Mormonism, I in no way believe him to be honest or trustworthy.</p> <p>But those hateful "anti-Mormon" ministries that use lies to convince people of truths are not one whit different from Joseph Smith who did used deceptions to convince others!</p> <p>Let's stick to the facts.</p> <p>And when we hear the facts, let's continually ask ourselves:</p> <p>How do these facts contribute to the make-up of Joseph Smith and the end products he presented to the world?</p>
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In some ways, it is very difficult to tease Joseph the Prophet apart from his end products.

The Book of Mormon is endlessly connected to the Smith family, the religious and social culture, and an overabundance of 19th century republican themes and ideals.

Many unique LDS doctrines and practices originated from practices that had their origins in established rituals of the past.

“Answers of certitude” were provided in response to questions long the center of communal, religious and familial debate.

Looking at Mormon origins is often like looking at a “grand and living three-dimensional e-mosaic” from which a very imaginative Joseph cut and pasted his favorite images into one dynamic and interactive collage.

Kinda like those commercials today.

Grandparents, parents, and siblings played a part.

Magic played a part.

Republicanism played a part.

Poverty played a part.

Greed played a part.

Lust played a part.

Culture played a part

Misery played a part.

Faith played a part.

Deception played a part.

Fear played a part.

Family played a part.

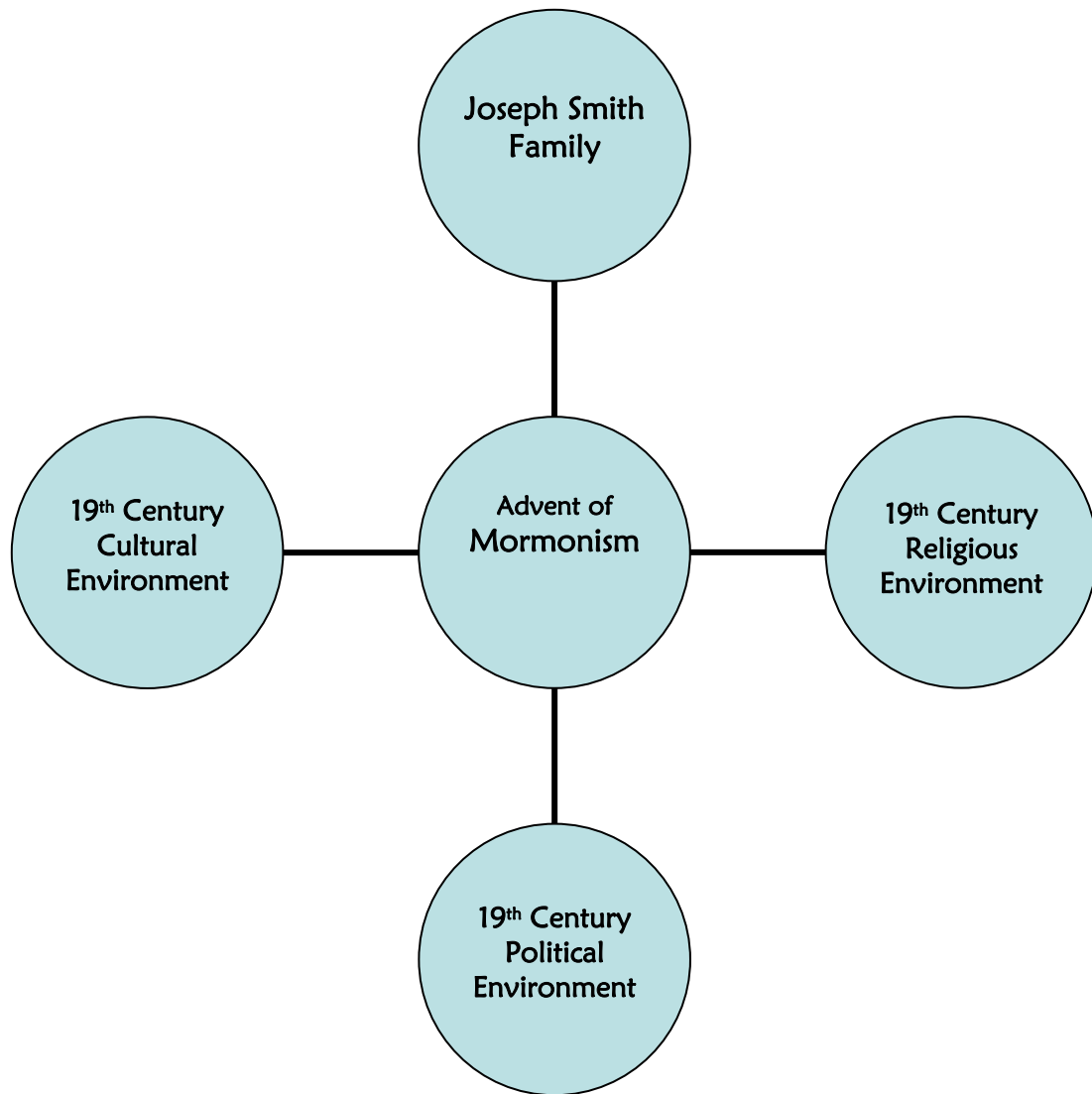
God played a part.

And Satan played a part.

<p>As you listen to the facts its up to you to decide just what it all means.</p> <p>As a sum of its parts, the “Mormon collage” is truly unique, but the individual pieces are not only unoriginal, they’re passé and unrelated to what typically concerns religious people most – their relationship to God through His Son.</p>	
<p>This quote speaks volumes. In the first place it illustrates that “a right religion” and “joining a right religion” was important to Joseph Smith’s mother from a very early age. This theme will continue to grow and assert itself after she marries and has children.</p> <p>The quote gives us a first glimpse into the fact that Joseph Smith’s mother was very concerned with “what other people say” about her.</p> <p>This characteristic will also play a part in the make-up of Joseph.</p>	<p>As a teaching tool, I am going to introduce a diagram that we will use as a template to approach the construction of Mormonism.</p> <p>GO TO GRAPHIC AND DESCRIBE IT.</p> <p>Interestingly enough, Joseph Smith’s family were greatly interested in organized religion – either to mock it or find it true – well before the would-be prophet was ever born.</p> <p>Joseph Smith, Jr. mothers name was “Lucy Mack.”</p> <p>Her early life was difficult and painful.</p> <p>Of eight children, she rarely saw her father, whose name was Solomon, because he was involved in great and adventurous business schemes, none of which ever really prospered for the family.</p> <p>These failures</p> <p>LDS writer Richard Bushman wrote: “Much of Solomon’s grim endurance</p>

<p>Joseph's mother came to understand organized religion from a "family perspective," therefore no religion outside her family satisfied her. Some records suggest she was religiously depressed.</p> <p>She remained unattached to any organized religion prior to meeting her husband.</p>	<p>passed to his daughter."</p> <p>Bushman adds that "Lucy measured the early years (of her life) not by "happy friendships and childish adventures," but by "death and illnesses."</p> <p>Early life for Lucy Mack Smith was difficult at best.</p> <p>At around age nineteen, Lucy sought comfort in religion. But even at this young age faced a personal problem with "which church to join."</p> <p>In her biographical sketches, Joseph Smith's mother wrote:</p> <p>"If I remain a member of no church, all the religious people will say I am of the world; and if I join some one of the different denominations, all the rest will say I am in error. No church will admit that I am right, except the one with which I am associated."</p> <p>Lucy's mother, Lydia, was a member of the Congregational Church. Her husband Solomon admitted that it was Lydia who instilled in their eight children "piety, gentleness, and</p>
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	<p>reflection.”</p> <p>Lucy herself said that all of her religious instruction came from her “pious and affectionate” mother.</p> <p>Lucy brother became a lay preacher at twenty and her sisters sought to the ends of their lives to follow the Lord.</p>
<p>Conclusion</p> <p>Just a reminder –</p> <p>Heart of the Matter is rebroadcast every Tuesday morning at 11:00 am.</p> <p>Also, we have a new show called The Infallible Word which airs Monday nights at 9:30pm and Friday nights at 8:30 pm.</p> <p>We hope you’ll tune in.</p> <p>We’ll see you next week here on Heart of the Matter.</p>	



Father Figure

(January 23, 2007)

Before Joseph Smith Jr. was born in the winter of 1805, the foundation for Mormonism was well in place . . . in part by his grandparents and parents.

His father, Joseph Smith Senior and his mother, Lucy Mack Smith, had eleven children, nine of which survived.

“Joseph Junior” was in the middle.

His father, Joseph Smith Senior, came from a family of eleven children and had an accomplished father whose name was Asael.

Asael was successful and extremely opinionated on the subject of religion, God, liberty, and individual freedom.

Asael did not like organized religion much, was a staunch in his Universalist opinions, but at the same time longed for a time when a restoration of the “primitive church” would occur on earth.

Contrary to what Jesus and the Bible state, Universalist’s believed that everyone will be saved.

Everyone.

This doctrine, which was passed down from Grandfather Asael to Joseph Smith Senior and then to Joseph Junior would play an enormous role in the thinking and theology that Joseph Junior would present by way of Mormonism in the years to come.

According to public records of

December 6th 1797 – many years before Joseph Junior was born – grandfather Asael, his father Joseph Senior, and His uncle, Jesse – attached their names to the founding charter of the Universalist Society of Tunbridge, Vermont.

This was the only organized religion Joseph Smith Senior would ever join – except his sons a few decades later.

Universalism was in essence an anti-sectarian position because if everyone goes to heaven then all religions – and no religions – are correct.

Universalism would be the only religion Joseph Juniors father would ever join – besides his own sons.

This is important because Joseph Smith father REFUSED – REFUSED to touch any religion that did not meet his specifications.

And guess what his middle, large-in-stature son provided him? The religion with which he could agree.

In addition to being a Universalist, Joseph Smith's grandfather Asael also believed, like many early Americans, that America was "set apart" by God as a land of liberty, peace, and a place free of religion oppression.

Later, this theme would appear in the pages of the Book of Mormon as well.

In 1st Nephi 2:20, Nephi, who was in Jerusalem at the time, is told by God that

"ye shall be led to a land of promise; yea, even a land which I have prepared

<p>I propose that these attitudes came not by way of revelation but by way of fulfilling and satisfying paternal and grand-parental influence.</p> <p>In the teachings of the prophet Joseph Smith, it quotes Joseph Smith as saying:</p> <p><i>“It is a love of liberty which inspires my soul – civil and religious liberty to the whole of the human race. Love of liberty was diffused into my soul <u>by my grandfathers</u> while they dandled me on their knees.”</i></p> <p>Hand in hand with the Smith patriarchs “universalist attitudes” and belief that America was chosen by God as a land of liberty, they also believed that the “Church of Jesus Christ” would some day soon be restored to the earth.</p> <p>These people – who were not a few at this time and place - were known as “restorationists” or “primitivists.”</p> <p>But even before Joseph Junior was born, the Smith men believed that it would be through their family that the truth would be restored.</p> <p>George Q. Cannon, Church Apostle, writes in his book, <i>Life of Joseph Smith the Prophet</i>, that Joseph’s grandfather Asael said:</p> <p><i>“It has been bourne (sic) upon my soul that one of my descendents (sic) will promulgate a work to revolutionize the world of religious faith.”</i></p> <p>The last time young Joseph Smith Jr. saw his paternal grandmother, Asael’s</p>	<p><i>for you; yea, a land which is choice above all other lands.”</i></p>
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wife, she communicated to him that he was “a special boy who had a special work that he must do for God” and that he “must always follow the teachings of his father and mother” so he would be prepared when the time came “for God to call him to accomplish the work he was destined to perform.”

From a very young age, Joseph junior had it instilled in him that he was destined to perform something for God.

After Joseph Smith was assassinated, Brigham Young glorified the Smith family’s patriarchal directives in Journal of Discourses 7:289

“The Lord had his eye upon him, and upon his father, and upon his father’s father, and upon the progenitors clear back to Abraham, and from Abraham to the flood, from the flood to Enoch, and from Enoch to Adam. He watched that family and that blood as it circulated from its foundation to the birth of that man.”

BH Roberts, Church Historian wrote that Joseph Juniors grandfather Asael told the would be prophet as a boy that

God “has brought us into the land of peace and liberty.” He then went on: “I believe He [God] is about to bring all the world into the same beatitude in his own time and way. And I believe that the stone is now cut out of the mountain, without hands, spoken of by the Prophet Daniel, and has smitten the image upon his feet, by which all monarchical and ecclesiastical tyranny will be broken to pieces that there shall be no place found for them.”

Later, as the prophet for the Church,

Joseph Smith himself echoed these sentiments taught to him by his grandfather when he said:

*“I calculate to be one of the instruments of setting up the Kingdom of Daniel by the word of the Lord, and I intend to lay a foundation that will revolutionize the whole world. It will not be by the sword or gun that this Kingdom will roll on: the power of truth is such that **all nations will be under the necessity of obeying the Gospel.**”*

From a child, Joseph was taught that

1. The primitive religion of God had been taken from the earth (meaning the gates of hell did in fact prevail against what Jesus set up)
2. that America was a sacred place of freedom set apart for the restored gospel to come forth
3. and that he would, in fact, be the one who would initiate this religious event.

The impact and influence from Joseph Juniors paternal side on his views was powerful and obvious.

What else do we know about Joseph's father?

In 1802, three years before Joseph Junior was born, Joseph Smith Senior invested most of the money the family had into an overseas ginseng business.

This business failed mostly because of

the unscrupulous business practices of a trusted friend.

This left the family financially destitute.

For at least the next twenty years, the Smith's struggled greatly to even exist.

Two years after the ginseng debacle, Joseph Smith Junior was born.

In my studies, I believe that Joseph and his siblings were loved by their parents.

I think they were a close family.

I don't see them as lacking attention or being treated with indifference.

In fact I think their family unit played a significant role in the theological ideas Joseph Junior presented to the world.

With the exception of his early years with wife Emma in Pennsylvania and the time he spent in liberty jail, Joseph Junior was always in close proximity to his father and mother.

After the ginseng affair history tends to indicate that Joseph Smith's father entered a long period of self-doubt which included alcohol abuse and a penchant for get rich quick schemes.

He also passed on the unfortunate legacy of treasure seeking and a reliance on magic to his middle son who was later introduced himself as "the Prophet."

In addition to seeking buried treasure,

alcohol problems, and a passionate attitude against all organized religion of the day, Joseph Smith Senior was also a visionary man.

His wife Lucy reports that her husband experienced seven impactful dream-visions well before his son experienced his “first vision” at around the age of fourteen.

Because of time constraints, I won’t share all of these dreams with you. But I will share one of them – the second – which Father Smith had when Joseph Junior was just six years old.

Now try and imagine the setting:

Here is a large poor family crowded into a small home in the country.

It’s snowing outside and Joseph Senior has probably by this point tied one on.

But the children want a story!

Now Joseph and Lucy are very mystical and religious people – but in their own respective ways.

Father Joseph dreamed dreams and Mother Lucy sees visions.

There’s no television.

There’s no radio.

And father and mother are actually smiling and getting along together as the story telling begins.

“Share one of Daddy dreams!” the children plead.

So they draw the children in a little closer and in a memorable moment of

happiness Father Joseph convincingly recite a dream.

According to Lucy, the second dream, went like this:



*Father Smith finds himself in a **deserted field that represented the world.***

*He follows a path that takes him to a crystal stream of water. He walks up to find the source and found the **most beautiful tree** he had ever seen in the midst of a valley.*

*The tree bore fruit **whiter than snow.** Its taste was delicious beyond description.*

*He said to himself, "I can't eat all alone. **I must get my wife and children;** that they might partake with me."*

*And he brought his wife and seven children and **they ate the fruit** and praised God.*

*On the other side of the valley was a **spacious building** with many doors and windows, filled with people who were dressed in fine clothes. They began to **point at Joseph and his family with great contempt.** At this time, he understood that the fruit they were eating was the pure love of God*

(COMPARATIVE)

Those of you familiar with the Book of Mormon know that in the story, Father Lehi, also being a visionary man, has a dream-vision which he shares with his large-in-stature middle son named Nephi.

Now turn to
1st Nephi 8:9-10

Vs. 11

Vs. 12

Vs. 16

Vs. 26 -27

that fills the hearts of all those who love and keep His commandments. His guide told him to get all of his children because not all of them were there.

He went a short distance and got two small children. They all ate more fruit, using both hands.

In conclusion, the guide told him that the spacious building represented Babylon and its scorn, and those that pointed despised the true saints of God for their humility.

We cannot legitimately conclude our short study of the paternal influences on Joseph Junior without speaking of magic.

Before we do, I'd like to read a couple passages from the Bible - which was around and known perhaps better than any other book during Joseph Smith's life – about the practice of magic, sorcery, or enchantments.

Isaiah 8:19 *And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a*

Remember, according to Lucy, Father Joseph had this dream almost twelve years before the first vision even occurred!

And yet we find his personal dream included in the text of the Book of Mormon!

I'd call this some real parental influence over the visionary and revelatory experiences of a son.

people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?

Isaiah 19:3 *And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof; and I will destroy the counsel thereof: and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards.*

Isaiah 47:12-13 *Stand now with thine enchantments, and with the multitude of thy sorceries, wherein thou hast laboured from thy youth; if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail.*
Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee.

Leviticus 19:26 *Ye shall not eat any thing with the blood: neither shall ye use enchantment, nor observe times.*

Deuteronomy 18:10-12 *There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.*

There seems to be a lot of justification for the Smith family's use of magic in the LDS apologetic today.

Many say it was a common practice of the time.

Others say it was innocent and just a cultural activity.

I've even presented this opinion at times.

But there is a very important thing to consider regarding the subject of "treasure seeking" as it relates to the Smith family and Mormon history.

How did Bible believing Christians respond to the practice of money digging, amulets, and magic parchments at this time?

The answer is an absolute "They rejected them!"

Why? Because they trusted the Word

(THOUGHT? Just what kinds of "treasures" would Father Joseph and Joseph Junior actually have been searching for, anyway?)

(Jeopardy Sound)

Ah ha! They would have been looking for buried money from the revolution OR buried Indian treasures wouldn't they?

This certainly adds some insight into where their minds were and the conversations they could have been having, doesn't it?

Okay!

Father Joseph was quoted as saying in 1837:

"I know more about money-digging than any man in this generation for I have been in the business for more than thirty years!"

Money digging the term used to divine or seek for buried treasure using seer

<p>Fact:</p> <p>Before Joseph Junior was born, the Smith men believed that the true Church of Jesus Christ was lost from the earth.</p>	<p>stones, rods, or visions.</p> <p>It was a fairly common practice among folk in the rural areas of the country.</p> <p>But there was also a certain shame that often associated it with laziness – I guess it would be similar to the suspicions we have for the character of people who read palms, play the lotto, or live at the race track.</p> <p>In an effort to paint a better portrait of her family, Lucy Mack Smith wrote in her Biographical Sketches:</p> <p>“Let not my reader suppose that because I shall pursue another topic for a season that we stopped our labor and went at trying to win the faculty of Abrac, drawing magic circles, or soothsaying to the neglect of all kinds of business. We never during our lives suffered one important interest to swallow up every other obligation.”</p> <p>In other words, Lucy did not want people to think that just because her family dabbled in the arts of “Abrac, drawing magic circles, and soothsaying” that they stopped doing other things that were important.”</p> <p>It is no surprise that the quote I just read was taken out of her final narrative draft.</p>
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<p>The grandparents and parents believed this church would come through the Smith family.</p> <p>Joseph's father rejected all organized religion – all of them – except the one his son presented later – this pleased him.</p> <p>His father taught Joseph to trust in magic practices. These practices became a part of his methods of operation.</p> <p>His father was a visionary man, who dreamed dreams, passed those dreams on to his son, and at least one of these dreams made its way into the Book of Mormon.</p>	
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Maternal Influence

(January 30, 2007)

Last week I described Joseph Smith's Father:

The picture was of a man who

- would not embrace any organized religion
- who as a Universalist believed everyone would be saved
- who waited for the true Church of Jesus to be restored to the earth through his family
- who faced great financial woes
- and battled with the bottle a bit
- and had a penchant for spending not a little time in the search of lost and buried treasures using magic stones, rods, and visions.
- We also mentioned that he was a dreamer whose dreams even wound up somehow in the text of the Book of Mormon.

Tonight we are going to look at another influence on the boy prophet – even his mother, Lucy Mack Smith.

Now there is a lot more information on Joseph Smith's mother than his father.

I am merely going to give you some background on what made her who she was.

Over the course of the year I'll fill in the blanks about her whereabouts, contributions, and views.

There are differences of opinions on whether Joseph Senior and Lucy's marriage was harmonious.

Vogel and Hill say's it wasn't.
And Bushman says it was.

But all three agree that there was certainly religious conflict within the marriage and home.

Like many of you, and like Joseph Junior himself, I know from first-hand experience what it is like to be in a home where the matriarch was religiously inclined and the patriarch was religiously liberal.

There's a certain dynamic that occurs in a home where the parents do not see religion through the same lens.

The point her is to get you to try and imagine how a religiously liberal father and a religiously exuberant and devoted mother would contribute to the make-up of an imaginative son who later called himself "The Prophet."

From the beginning, life was hard on Lucy Mack Smith. In writing about her existence, she spoke primarily about illness and death.

Bushman writes that Lucy measured her "early years not by happy friendships and childish adventures but by deaths and illnesses."

This took its toll on her emotional health.

At nineteen years of age she wrote:

"I was pensive and melancholy, and often in my reflections I thought life was not worth possessing."

I do not mean to infer that Lucy was without God. She came from a family that was extremely devout in their religious appellations.

Her oldest brother, Jason, became a preacher at twenty years old, having sought for spiritual gifts outside of established churches since he was just sixteen. He later established a religious commune in Canada.

When Lucy was just 16, as her two older sisters Lovina and Lovisa were about to die, they spent their last breaths warning bedside listeners on the importance of "preparing for eternity."

Lucy was accustomed to religious differences in the home as her own mother and father seemed to bear the same faith-traits she and her husband Joseph Senior bore in their marriage.

Lucy's mother Lydia, who as a Calvinist was raised in a Deacon's house, joined the Congregational Church at thirty after she married her husband Solomon, who at that time spent his days in failed searches for wealth.

Like the Smith family Lucy would someday join through marriage, Solomon Mack was also a Universalist up until he found the Lord in 1809.

Lucy attributes all the religious piety within her to her mother, however, who at a minimum ensured that her family gathered twice daily for morning and evening prayers.

Lucy's similar dedication to religious practices would greatly influence her own brood years later, especially Joseph Junior.

At nineteen, possibly in response to the depressed state she found herself in, Lucy said in her Biographical Sketches,

“In the midst of the anxiety of my mind, I determined to obtain that which I had heard spoken of from the pulpit - a change of heart.”

Interestingly enough, the Bible never uses such phraseology as change of heart or mighty change of heart, that Lucy does, and that her son Joseph would use in the text of the Book of Mormon (Alma 5:22) years later.

Lucy goes on to say that “I spent much of my time in reading the Bible and praying.” Nevertheless, she was afraid to join any single denomination for fear of offending another.

As devoted as she was to religious practices, Lucy did maintain an attitude that was shared by her husband and the rest of the Smith family.

She said

“If I remain a member of no church, all religious people will say I am of the world; and if I join some one of the different denominations, all the rest will say I am in error. No church will admit that I am right, except the one I am associated.”

While at first glance this may seem to be an indictment on the various Christian Churches at the time, who just “couldn’t get along,” it is also quite revelatory of Lucy Smith’s mind and personality.

Listen to it again.

“If I remain a member of no church, all religious people will say I am of the world; and if I join some one of the different denominations, all the rest will say I am in error. No church will admit that I am right, except the one I am associated.”

Several dominant personality traits of Lucy Mack Smith present themselves time and time again when reading about her life.

They are an almost overwhelming obsession with pleasing God through religious allegiance and a desire to maintain a certain level of social standing with the community around her.

These traits carried over into her marriage to Joseph Smith Senior.

LDS Psychologist C. Jess Grosbeck wrote:

“An overriding theme that emerges from Lucy Mack’s autobiography is perfectionism and moralism surrounding a religious quest that was part of an attempt to save and heal her husband.”

With a history of New England Puritan leanings, a Calvinist mother who raised her, and bouts of anxiety and depression, Lucy was primed for a life of religious obsession – and everything which that entails.

After marrying Joseph Smith Senior and having given birth to three children, Lucy got very, very sick.

Some say it was consumption, some say pneumonia. By its description, some even believe it was a nervous breakdown.

Describing her condition she wrote:

“I continued to grow weaker and weaker, until I could barely endure a footfall on the floor, except in stocking-foot, and no one was allowed to speak in the room above a whisper.”

A Methodist exhorter came to visit and asked her if she was ready to die. She recalls her response in her autobiography:

“I knew not the ways of Christ; besides, there appeared to be a dark and lonely chasm, between myself and the Savior, which I dared not attempt to pass.”

As she laid there in bed she contemplated her death and thought that by

“straining towards the light (which I knew lay just beyond the gloomy veil before me) that I could discover a faint glimmer.”

During that same night, she begged God to spare her life and secretly covenanted that

“if He would let me live I would endeavor to get that religion that would enable me to serve Him right whether it was in the Bible or wherever it might be found even if it was to be obtained from heaven by prayer and faith.”

She then heard a voice speak to her that said,

“Seek, and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened up to you. Ye believe in God, believe also in me.”

Her recovery began immediately thereafter.

In this recitation of Lucy’s own words, we learn that Joseph Smith’s mother:

- 1) was unsure of her salvation even as she laid at death’s door and in spite of her religious upbringing.
- 2) was visionary, to the point of “seeing a faint glimmer of light from heaven.
- 3) was willing to embrace religion, even

<p>one found outside the Bible if it would enable her to “serve God right” and would spend her life in search of this religion if her life was spared.</p> <p>4) received an audible communication from God.</p> <p>All of these events and beliefs were well established well before her prophet Son was born.</p> <p>How do you choose to view these factual portraits of the parents of Joseph Smith?</p> <p>I am not pretending to say that I am certain as to how they contributed to the make-up of Joseph Junior, but I do admit I think they provide some possible explanations for why he approached religion as he did.</p> <p>In addition to her religious make-up and moralism, Lucy Mack Smith was, like her husband Joseph Senior and their future son, Joseph Junior, a visionary and a prophetic dreamer.</p> <p>In 1803 or 1804, when she was greatly troubled by her husbands resistance to organized religion, Lucy “<u>retired to a grove of trees</u> to pray” for her husband to experience a change of heart.</p> <p>While sleeping later that night, she had a dream of two trees standing in the wind.</p> <p>According to Lucy, the trees represented her husband and his stubborn brother, Jesse.</p> <p>From this dream she was able to interpret the future religious state of both men – with her husband becoming flexible to God’s truth and her brother in law remaining stiff and immovable to it.</p>	
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With a father as a stubborn Universalist and a nagging habit for drink and magic, and a mother who secretly covenanted with God to spend her days searching for the “true religion” the family was in need of something no less than a religious savior.

It was in these conditions that Joseph Smith Junior was born, becoming, as it were, the prime candidate in the Smith home to bring them peace.

Jesus obviously hadn’t done it for them. They had had Jesus for decades in their families and lives and what did He bring?

Religion couldn’t heal them. All it did was bring division!

No, something had to be done and it must have seemed to Joseph Junior like nothing was going to change unless he took steps to make it happen.

In a sense, he made himself their savior

I propose that the Book of Mormon and the establishment of the Church was in part – in part - a response to the immediate needs of Joseph Junior’s parents and family.

I think the announcement of seeing a vision of the Lord fit well into the psychological make-up of his mother and I think the announcement from this visage that “all the churches were wrong” pleased his father.

I think that the announcement of the buried Golden Plates gave the family further hope,

It is hardly surprising to know, in this context, that the Broome County Courier on December 29 1831 called Joseph Smith a “second Messiah.”

and I think the text of the translated book provided seven years later gave the Smith family all the direction, promise, and public acclaim they could ever desire.

Indeed, Lucy Mack Smith's wishful prayer of *"getting that religion whether it was in the Bible or wherever it might be found . . ."* was fulfilled . . . since not by God, then by her own son.

Pre-First Vision

(February 6, 2007)

Last week we had a call from Alan, who gave us a challenge:

Said he:

“Ah, about change in scripture, ah, I believe if it is wrong for the Mormons, it is wrong for the Bible prophets. There is one in Jeremiah, chapter 36 the last verse, where the punchline, the last verse, is changed, he adds to it . . . I’ll let you look that up.”

And so I did. Let’s look at the thinking and attitude of our caller Alan here.

First, he called the last verse of Jeremiah 36 “the punchline.”

Second, he claims that if Bible prophets can change or alter scripture the Mormons should be able to.

Let’s see what he is talking about.

Chapter 36 gives an account of an King Jehoiakim's burning the roll of Jeremiah's prophecies and the consequence of it.

The order to write this roll, the time when it was written, the contents and use of it, are in [Jer 36:1](#).

Baruch, who recorded it from the prophet Jeremiah, read it to the people [Jer 36:4](#).

He also read it to the princes of the King.

the king sent Jehudi to fetch the roll, who then read it to the king, [Jer 36:16](#).

After hearing part of it, he burnt it, notwithstanding the intercession of some of his princes to not [36:22](#).

He then ordered Jeremiah and Baruch to be taken captive but they could not be found [Jer 36:26](#).

Then the LORD ordered a new roll to be written, [Jer 36:27..](#)

Which was done with some additions to it.

These additions were all with respect to the destruction of the land, and the people in it, by the Chaldeans; and particularly the death of the king, and his want of a burial, [Jer 36:29](#).

This is the so-called change/addition Alan is trying to make relative to LDS changes in their scripture.

Can you detect the enormous differences here?

(Explain)

Read it aloud to people.

Kind burned it.

Rewrote it as it was, but added the King's destruction.

LDS wrote it.

Could not reduplicate it.

Changed it.

Called the originals wrong.

Didn't reveal the changes were added.

Now, while it is apparent that Alan made a really poor comparison here, what is most revealing is Alan's attitude – which is a common attitude many LDS have toward the Bible –

Smug (called it a “punchline”)

Demeaning toward it (if its wrong for the Mormons to change scripture it should be wrong for the Bible prophets).

Wrong for the Bible prophets!

	<p>Listen. Don't demean the Bible. Just don't. Don't take your rewritten history and secretly altered doctrines and try and pull the Bible into the same pit of deception.</p>
<p>We've talked about his grandparents.</p> <p>We've discussed his parents.</p> <p>Tonight we are going to analyze some common and not so common stories from the early life of Joseph Smith, Jr. in an effort to paint a more detailed picture of the boy-prophet before his claims of seeing God.</p> <p>These stories include an operation he experienced on an infected leg, early life suffering and trauma inflicted upon him by a cruel series of events, and his early dabbling in magic.</p> <p>First, let's talk about a story that is often repeated in the LDS Sunday Schools about Joseph when he was only around six years old.</p> <p>Typhoid fever had slipped through the family, and though most became quite ill, no life was lost.</p> <p>The fever left Joseph Juniors body but two weeks later a sore developed under his arm pit which drained large quantities of purulent matter.</p>	

The infection healed but the boy began to complain of a pain between his ankle and knee.

A doctor was called and an incision made, which helped, but when it healed over, the pain returned, they incised again, to the bone.

The infection continued and a series of expert doctors from Dartmouth College came in a suggested amputation.

Lucy and Joseph Junior rejected this idea, and Lucy states in her autobiography that she suggested to the doctors that they remove parts of the infected bone.

They agreed to this suggestion.

Now here is the part that reveals much about the Smith home.

Here is this six year old boy in extreme suffering.

And he is offered wine and brandy as a means to deaden the pain.

But he refuses.

This is portrayed heroically in LDS Sunday Schools the world over – the boy who would be prophet who would not touch alcohol.

But we need to look a little deeper.

<p>So why would this suffering six year old so courageously refuse to drink even in the face of such pain?</p> <p>The answer lies in how the child perceived drinking in the first place.</p> <p>I suggest that in light of the fact that alcohol was available in the home, and that his father consumed it to the displeasure of his wife Lucy, that at this very early age Joseph was taking a stand against the fathers ways.</p>	<p>First of all, where did the wine and brandy come from? Did the Darmouth doctors carry it with them to the Smith home?</p> <p>That is doubtful. So this would indicate that alcohol was not something the Smith family was foreign to.</p> <p>Next, what would cause a six year old boy to reject taking alcohol?</p> <p>Some believe it was a tremendous spirit of virtue residing in the about-to-be prophet. But this doesn't account for the fact that the Prophet drank alcohol as an adult!</p> <p>Josiah Stowell, who associated with Joseph in 1825 through 1827 said the prophet would "take a glass but not get drunk" and Martin Harris was brought before a high council court in 1834 for stating that Joseph drank while before translating the Book of Mormon.</p> <p>Accounting books from Lemuel Durfee's farm show large quantities of "liquor cider" delivered to the Smith family during the spring and summer of 1827.</p> <p>(see Vogels Early Mormon Documents for more accounts of Joseph's drinking.)</p>
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He viewed alcohol and its effects negatively because of what he saw in his own father as a result of the damage it did to their family.

This is never discussed in the LDS Church.

Extreme physical labor.

Joseph Junior himself said, as a result of their poverty, that all the children who “were able to render any assistance were obliged to labor hard.”

Lucy Mack Smith notes that in the first year of being in Palmyra, when Joseph was only around 12 or 13, that the Smith’s – father, Alvin, Hyrum, and Joseph Junior - cleared 30 acres of land for cultivation. “A Herculean effort,” according to LDS author Bushman.

Other factors that played heavily on the make-up of the boy Joseph was his exposure to a variety of extremely painful, odd, and difficult early life circumstances.

These included:

The extreme physical pain he experienced as a young man, as described in the story of his un-anesthetized operation.

The extreme metaphysical make-up of his parents (by way of their early visions and dreams).

Extreme religious factionalism in the communities (which we’ll discuss in future shows).

<p>Extreme uprootedness or fear of being uprooted.</p>	<p>Extreme social condemnation for the family's poor social status.</p> <p>Joseph's mother Lucy was very sensitive to the remarks about their low social status. Speaking of the log home they inhabited, Lucy wrote:</p> <p>"I have tis true suffered many disagreeable disappointments in life with regard to property."</p> <p>Joseph's father had a long history of difficulties with creditors, to the point the Smith family seemed to constantly be at the point of either about to lose their home – or in fact lost their home and shelter – due to collectors honest and not calling them on their debts.</p> <p>Daniel Hendrix, a Palmyra resident from 1822-1830 said that he frequently saw Joseph Junior's "in torn and patched trousers, held to his form by a pair of suspenders made out of sheeting, with his calico shirt as dirty and black as earth . . with shoes so worn he must have suffered in the snow and slush."</p> <p>When Joseph Senior appeared before Judge Neely in March of 1826 a resident of Bainbridge commented that he was so "poorly clad," that he looked "like a wandering vagabond."</p> <p>I mention this not to poke fun at the poverty of the Smith's nor to try and tie their appearance to their unworthiness before God.</p> <p>I am not one to place a lot of emphasis on attire.</p> <p>I mention it to paint a picture of the hardship in Joseph's early life, to cast a true light on their family circumstances in light of the present-day pictures presented of them in LDS meetinghouses, and to help you see the reality of the boys upbringing.</p> <p>Ironically, I doubt that either Jesus or Joseph would be warmly accepted in the present church today, based on their appearance alone.</p>
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Says Bushman:

“Following their parents pattern, Joseph and Lucy circulated among villages in the Upper Connecticut Valley before migrating to Palmyra and Manchester, New York.”

And again, while there, were under the constant threat of losing whatever home they had.

Extreme treatment at the hands of people who were put in trust.

When Joseph was about ten years old, his father decided to move the family to Palmyra New York from Vermont.

Joseph’s father set out alone to find land, leaving Lucy and the family to join him later.

In absolute poverty, because creditors met Lucy before leaving town and stripped her of their traveling funds, they made the trip with the help of an unscrupulous driver named Caleb Howard.

Howard was a cruel and selfish womanizer who would not let 10 year old Joseph, still limping from his surgery, on the sleigh because he wanted a young girl next to him.

Joseph hobbled along in the snow for miles.

Later, after Lucy had had enough of Howard’s shenanigans, she and her family continued on with another family, where one of the sons knocked Joseph off the wagon where he lay in the snow bleeding.

In Manuscript History of the Church, Joseph said:

<p>In addition to some extreme mystical views and magical practices by men he trusted, which we will discuss next week, I will end tonight with Joseph Smith's exposure to extreme sorrow.</p> <p>When Joseph was just seventeen years old, two months after Joseph had first gone to the hill Cumorah, his older brother Alvin died unexpectedly.</p> <p>Alvin was the glue that held the family together when Joseph Sr. was "out of the way through wine."</p> <p>Historical records show that he became a surrogate father in the Smith home, tended to a family store they once operated, used a seer stone to search for buried treasure, was one of the most</p>	<p>"he was left to wallow in my blood until a stranger came along, picked me up, and carried me to the town of Palmyra."</p> <p>Some may believe these stories support the notion that Joseph was being prepared for the arduous task of being the prophet of the restoration.</p> <p>This may be in part true.</p> <p>But it cannot be denied that they could very well contribute to the boys personal view of life, God, and religion, which in the end, molded and shaped a theology antithetical to the Bible!</p> <p>There is hardly a biography told of some historical monster who did not suffer in the extreme as a child.</p> <p>This aspect tends to be ignored in the presentations made in the Church today.</p>
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excited about the tale of there being gold plates, and, as recorded in Manuscript History of Joseph Smith, Alvin's presence was required at the hill Cumorah in order to obtain the plates!

All of this was now going to change.

Wrote Joseph of his older brother:

"He was the oldest member of my father's family. He lived without spot from the time he was a child. From the time of his birth he never knew mirth. He was candid and sober and never knew play. He minded his mother and father in toiling all day. He was one of the soberest men and when he died, and angel of the Lord visited him in his last moments."

In November of 1823, Alvin became very ill and was given a mercury-based compound called Calomel which lodged in his stomach and took his life in three days.

Knowing death was coming, he called Joseph and the family to his side and told him to:

"be a good boy, and do everything that lies in your power to obtain the record."

Shortly thereafter, he died.

His death served as a tremendous and life-numbing

blow to the Smith family.

Alvin was the patriarch, the trusted, hard working brother and he was dead.

Unexpected deaths of an immediate family member – especially if death has not been experienced in the family before – are a horrificly painful situation.

In the early morning of late September of 2000, I was sitting in my office at a Bank in Park City when I got a phone call from a family friend . . .

(Tell story of Jeff – how shocking, how painful, how it pushes everything into the now)

Now remember, this family, who just watched their eldest son and brother die –

- Was dirt poor. Was socially outcast.
- Was mystical in their thinking.
- was visionary.
- Were split up by religion – Lucy had joined the Western Presbyterian Church and took half the children with her while Joseph Senior stayed home with Alvin, William and Joseph Jr.
- Believed that gold plates were coming.
- Believed God had appeared to them.

And in the face of all this, this visiting minister came to them and told them that Alvin had gone to hell because he hadn't been baptized!

<p>Next week, we'll continue to investigate early Mormon history as we look into magic practices, and maybe take a step onto the sacred grove where a 14 year old boy claims to have seen God.</p>	<p>Are you beginning to see the elements that came into play in the making of the man, Joseph Smith Junior? And how he reacted to much of what traditional Christianity represented?</p>
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Knowing

(February 13, 2007)

Comment to my Catholic friends out there:

Received a few emails and telephone calls from our Catholic friends who were a bit concerned that I the gall to lump the Catholic Church in with Mormonism, Hinduism, and Islam.

Comments were that “if it wasn’t for the Catholic Church Christianity wouldn’t exist today!”

Let me make a few comments on this.

First of all, like the LDS, I’ve known some very Christian Catholics in my life.

And like the LDS, I’ve know some Catholics who have about a close a relationship with Jesus as a tumbleweed.

Hear me clearly, folks: It’s your relationship, NOT your religion.

Additionally, the institution of Catholicism, like the institution of Mormonism, and, quite frankly, the present-day institution of Christianity, is pathetic.

Popes, prophets, and popularity contests run amok.

If I offend you and your sacred religious institution – too bad.

Christians and Catholics are more than happy to let me bag on Mormons – and everybody else for that matter – but if I even suggest there’s a problem in their backyard!

Whoaaaaah! Look out.

<p>So for clarities sake, let me make my views perfectly clear:</p> <p>There's not a religious institution on this earth that can save a person. Only Jesus can do this.</p> <p>There's not a religious organization around whose history doesn't reek. Including yours.</p> <p>And there's not a religion today – Catholic, Mormon, and Christian – that hasn't been defiled by men.</p> <p>And while Church can be a very good and important element in a dedicated Christian walk, the only thing anyone can trust wholly their salvation and spiritual life to is Jesus and His Word.</p>	
<p>There's a saying that goes something like this:</p> <p><i>Every teacher should know that when she is teaching English and a sparrow flies in the room, she should set the English book down, and start teach about sparrows.</i></p>	<p>Last week, near the end of the show, we had a sweet-voiced woman, who claimed to be LDS, say she has had <i>“numerous spiritual experiences testifying to the truthfulness of the LDS Church.”</i></p> <p>She added, as a way to justify her position, that she <i>“knows a lot of other people in the LDS church who have had the same experiences.”</i></p> <p>She then claimed:</p> <p><i>“I can't deny it. I feel like Joseph</i></p>

Smith who said, I dare not deny it."

She then went on to bear testimony that she knows Joseph Smith truly had his first vision, that the Church is true, that the twelve apostles are true . . .

Interrupting her, I asked her if there was a question in all this or if she was just going to bear her testimony.

She asked:

"How do you account for all these people in the church who have had these spiritual experiences just like me."

I explained that there are many religions that have people who "share in similar spiritual experiences" and asked how she accounted for them?

I mean, how does the LDS Church, which says it is the ONLY true Church on the face of the earth, explain the existence of people from other religions who have similar spiritual experiences of truth within their respective congregations?

How do the LDS explain that Jehovah's Witnesses claim to share in a common mystical experience they regard as truth?

How do the LDS explain the fact that there are Muslims, Coptics, Rosicrusians, Greek Orthodox, Catholics, and Seventh Day-Adventists – to name a few – who similarly claim respective spiritual absolute truth?

Our caller Janice didn't get it. And in a not uncommon response, she resorted to the infamous LDS retort

. . .

The "I just Know it" response.

I said to Janice, "I think you are sincere and believe the things you are saying . . ."

She interrupted me matter-of-factly, "I know it."

then added, "I know of an assurity."

I can't help but believe that even though we are supposed to be covering the magical practices of the Smith family tonight, "a sparrow has flown in the room."

I have a duty to address it.

I replied to Janice,

"You have no more of an assurity than a believing Jehovah's Witness, or a Muslim who "knows," or an atheist who "knows." You don't know with more of an assurity."

She said, "Of course I do."

I said "No you don't."

She said, "Yes I do."

I said, "I'm sorry, but you don't."

A little miffed she replied, "Don't you tell me what I know."

And I ended the call because we

<p>I think it is important to speak for a moment about the words Know, Believe, and Truth.</p> <p>Now the study of “knowing” and how we know things is called Epistemology.</p> <p>Epistemology is a dynamic area of study and does not have many concrete platforms upon which we can stand.</p> <p>But there are, however, general rules upon which epistemologists generally agree.</p> <p>When a person says “I know,” they usually</p>	<p>ran out of time.</p>
<p>mean one of several things.</p> <p>They mean “they are aware” of something. <i>“I know my skin has freckles.”</i></p> <p>They mean “they understand” something. <i>“I know how the dog got out of the yard.”</i></p> <p>Or they mean “they are absolutely certain” of a matter. <i>“I know that I am that child’s mother.”</i></p> <p>In metaphysics – or in the study of spiritual issues – the use of the word “know” is usually limited to the first and second definitions - of “being aware” and of “understanding” something.</p> <p>The use of the word “know” in the sense of being “absolutely certain of the factuality of something is typically absent from most intellectually honest discussions about metaphysics.</p> <p>Unless you are LDS or the member of a</p>	

group that employs totalist methods to control their congregates.

Famous philosopher Rene Decarte, who also happened to be a Christian, wanted to explore the depths of “knowing.”

Anyone who has attended an LDS ward sacrament meeting on what they call “fast and testimony meeting” is likely to witness the following:

The bishop or a bishopric member opens the meeting up by offering “his testimony” of the truthfulness of the Gospel.

He then turns the time over to the members of the Church to take to the pulpit and share their own personal “testimony.”

Often, the first to go up to the open pulpit are the children of the ward.

Sometimes as many as 8 to 10 children – from as young as two 3 years old – will take the stand.

If the child is too young to know how to

Cartesian philosophy

Doubted everything

Skeptical of all premises

Even down to his existence.

Finally came to the conclusion that the ONLY thing he could be certain of, the only thing he knew, was that he existed.

“I think, therefore, I am.”

SIDE NOTE: When a Christian shares their testimony, they are sharing how they came to know Jesus as their personal Savior.

As we shall see, an LDS testimony is a much different thing.

form sentences before an audience, a parent will often stand there with them and whisper what they should say in their ear.

Almost every “testimony” goes something like this:

I want to bear my testimony.

*I **know** the Church is true.*

*I **know** Joseph Smith was a prophet.*

*I **know** the Church today is led by a prophet.*

*I **know** the Book of Mormon is true.*

I’m thankful for my family.

I’m thankful for Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.

And I say these things ITNOJCA

Variations in content are usually connected to the age and maturity of the person relative to the Church.

Teens often include gratitude for Church leaders and friends, and frequently offer personal comparisons of the “quality of their lives” compared to those people they know in school who have not been blessed to be “members of the Church.”

Young married people often pay gushing public tributes to parents and/or the spouses in their lives.

Mature members are often known to present a very polished presentation which can include humor, words of the most grave humility, and praises for certain stalwarts in the ward.

Immature testimonies are often a compilation of intimate and mundane details of some of the most banal non-events in life – a recent cold tragedy, the glorification of a child, or the joy of belonging to a ward family.

Regardless of the person sharing, however, intrinsic to the standardized LDS testimony is the constant and repetitive mantra-phrase "I know."

One of the signs of totalist methods being used on people to control them, as discovered by Dr. Robert Lifton in his epic studies of cult tactics in Communist China, is that (and I quote)

"communication occurs in all-encompassing jargon which is repetitiously used."

As mentioned, it is a staple of the LDS testimony. It is also used as a last ditch effort to convince, to kill debate, and as a defense-mechanism when their unbiblical beliefs are challenged.

Want to hear the "I knows" come out?

Press a missionary on the facts of their beliefs.

Question a member about "why?" Why do you believe this when the Bible says this? Why do you accept this when the Bible says this? Why are you willing to embrace this when the Bible says this?

In the end, you will hear them, like Janice did last week, step back into a defense mode, possibly to the simple days of their testimony-bearing youth, and they will state - in the face of all the evidence around them, that "they know."

The phrase "I know," when used in

the sense that “an indisputable fact is possessed relative to spiritual truth,” has a number of grave difficulties associated with it.

Because we live by faith, which implies some measurement of hope and belief, “I know” is an ugly misapplication.

Hebrews 11:6 *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

And Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as

Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

Romans 8:24-25 *For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.*

Listen, there is no “I know” in the Bible because I know means I have no reason to hope, and since faith is the “substance of things hoped for,” and without faith we cannot please God, “I know” is antithetical to God’s ways!

Even in the Book of Mormon, Alma 32 it states that if a man knows a thing he no longer believes in it, because he knows!

It also states that “faith is not to have a perfect knowledge of things.”

"I know" is a construct of men, my brothers and sisters.

It is based in the flesh, in the carnal mind, in the philosophies of this world.

When people say "I know" they are essentially saying, "I, I, I, I . . ."
They are saying, "I don't need to look any farther! I know!"

It closes the door on thought! And the LDS children are saying it as young as three years old!

What a blinding con job these words reveal!

Christians say

"I have hope . . . I trust . . . I have faith . . . I pray . . . I look to . . . I long for . . . I seek . . . I desire."

Rarely, if ever, in my exposure to the body of Christ, do I hear salt of the earth Christians use the saying "I know" as it relates to their spiritual walk.

With one amazing and clarifying exception.

When they are asked if they "know" they are saved.

Where the LDS claim to "know" that just about everything in **"the Church"** is true, Christians do lay claim to knowing that they have been saved from sin and hell.

Before we go to the phones, let's examine these apparent

Knowledge is a distinct category of belief.

If someone believes something, he or she thinks that it is the truth. Of course, it might turn out that he or she was mistaken, and that what was thought to be true was actually false.

This is not the case with knowledge.

For example, suppose that Bill thinks that a particular bridge is safe, and attempts to cross it; unfortunately, the bridge collapses under his weight.

We might say that Bill *believed* that the bridge was safe, but that his belief was mistaken.

We would *not* accurately say that he *knew* that the bridge was safe, because plainly it was not.

For something to count as knowing, it must actually be true.

similarities.

To the LDS, “I know” is errantly applied to fallible and unproven objects – the Church, Joseph Smith, the Book of Mormon.

To Christians, “I know” is applied to only one area of certainty – their salvation, which is based NOT on anything from themselves, but on the Only infallible Truth upon which anyone can assuredly rely – Jesus!

Do you get it?

Jesus said, “Ye shall know the Truth and the Truth will set you free.”

	<p>He also said, "I am the Way, the TRUTH, and the life."</p> <p>So in essence, He said, "You shall know the Truth, the truth will set you free, and I am the Truth."</p> <p>We can only KNOW Him with metaphysical certitude because He is the only absolute truth upon which we can rely.</p> <p>In Mormonism, the Church has stepped in and said, "Place your trust in us and you can know."</p> <p>In the regenerated Christian, Jesus steps in and says, I am the truth. You can know me (the truth,) and I (the truth) will set you free (through certainty of your salvation and escape from hell).</p>
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EXTRA NOTES, SCRIPTURES, AND INFORMATION

1Co 8:1 Now <de> as touching <peri> things offered unto idols <eidolothuton>, we know <eido> that <hoti> we all <pas> have <echo> knowledge <gnosis>. Knowledge <gnosis> puffeth up <phusioo>, but <de> charity <agape> edifieth <oikodomeo>.

Ac 15:20,29; Ro 14:3,10,14,22; 1Co 10:19

Full Compare GBN ACC Barnes FBN JFB JWN MHC MHCC PNTC RWP

Teacher TSK WBN

Edit MyNotes

2 And <de> if any man <ei tis> think <dokeo> that he knoweth <eido> any thing <tis>, he knoweth <ginosko> nothing <oudeis> yet <oudepo> as <kathos> he ought <dei> to know <ginosko>.

These pretenders to uncommon wisdom had given rise to their factions, disputes, and parties, (see chap. i.--iii. ;) and Paul now reminds them that it was not safe to rely on such a guide. And it is no more safe now than it was then. Mere knowledge, or science, when the heart is not right, fills with pride; swells a man with vain self-confidence and reliance in his own powers, and very often leads him entirely astray. Knowledge combined with right feelings, with pure principles, with a heart filled with love to God and men, may be trusted; but not mere intellectual attainments--mere abstract science--the mere cultivation of the intellect. Unless the heart is cultivated with that, the effect of knowledge is to make a man a pedant; to fill him with vain ideas of his own importance; and thus to lead him into error and to sin.

1Co 13:9 For <gar> we know <ginosko> in <ek> part <meros>, and <kai> we prophesy <propheteuo> in <ek> part <meros>.

Verse 9. For we know in part. Comp. See Barnes for 1Co 12:27. This expression means, "only in part;" that is, imperfectly. Our knowledge here is imperfect and obscure. It may, therefore, all vanish in the eternal world amidst its superior brightness; and we should not regard that as of such vast value which is imperfect and obscure. Comp. See Barnes for 1Co 8:2. This idea of the obscurity and imperfection of our knowledge, as compared with heaven, the apostle illustrates (1Co 13:11) by comparing it with the knowledge which a child has, compared with that in maturer years; and (1Co 13:12) by the knowledge which we have in looking through a glass--an imperfect medium--compared with that which we have in looking closely and directly at an object without any medium.

1Co 13:10 But <de> when <hotan> that which is perfect <teleios> is come <erchomai>, then <tote> that which is in <ek> part <meros> shall be done away <katargeo>. {done away: Gr. vanish away}

Full Compare ACC Barnes FBN JFB JWN PNTC RWP TSK WBN

Edit MyNotes

11 When <hote> I was <emen> a child <nepios>, I spake <laleo> as <hos> a child <nepios>, I understood <phroneo> as <hos> a child <nepios>, I thought <logizomai> as <hos> a child <nepios>: but <de> when <hote> I became <ginomai> a man <aner>, I put away <katargeo> childish things <nepios>. {thought: or, reasoned} {put away: Gr. vanish away}

Full Compare GBN ACC Barnes FBN JFB JWN PNTC RWP Teacher TSK WBN

Edit MyNotes

12 For <gar> now <arti> we see <blepo> through <dia> a glass <esoptron>, darkly <en> <ainigma>; but <de> then <tote> face <prosopon> to <pros> face <prosopon>: now <arti> I know <ginosko> in <ek> part <meros>; but <de> then <tote> shall I know <epiginosko> even as <kathos> also <kai> I am known <epiginosko>. {darkly: Gr. in a riddle}

Mt 18:10; 2Co 3:18; 5:7; Php 3:12; 1Jo 3:2

2Co 5:16 Wherefore <hoste> henceforth <apo> <nun> know <eido> we <hemeis> no man <oudeis> after <kata> the flesh <sarx>: yea <de>, though <ei kai> we have known <ginosko> Christ <Christos> after <kata> the flesh <sarx>, yet <alla> now <nun> henceforth <ouketi> know we <ginosko> him no more <ouketi>.

Eph 3:19 And <te> to know <ginosko> the love <agape> of Christ <Christos>, which passeth <huperballo> knowledge <gnosis>, that <hina> ye might be filled <pleroo> with <eis> all <pas> the fulness <pleroma> of God <theos>.

Which passeth knowledge. There seems to be a slight contradiction here in expressing a wish to know what cannot be known, or in a desire that they should understand that which cannot be understood. But it is the language of a man whose heart was full to overflowing. He had a deep sense of the love of Christ, and he expressed a wish that they should understand it. Suddenly he has such an apprehension of it, that he says it is indeed infinite. No one can attain to a full view of it. It had no limit. It was unlike anything which had ever been evinced before. It was love which led the Son of God to become incarnate; to leave the heavens; to be a man of sorrows; to be reviled and persecuted; to be put to death in the most shameful manner--ON A CROSS. Who could understand that Where else had there been anything like that? What was there with which to compare it? What was there by which it could be illustrated? And how could it be fully understood? Yet something of it might be seen, known, felt; and the apostle desired that, as far as possible, they should understand that great love which the Lord Jesus had manifested for a dying world.

Faith

Faith is in general the persuasion of the mind that a certain statement is true (Php 1:27; 2Th 2:13). Its primary idea is trust. A thing is true, and therefore worthy of trust. It admits of many degrees up to full assurance of faith, in accordance with the evidence on which it rests.

Faith is the result of teaching (Ro 10:14-17). Knowledge is an essential element in all faith, and is sometimes spoken of as an equivalent to faith (Joh 10:38; 1Jo 2:3). Yet the two are distinguished in this respect, that faith includes in it assent, which is an act of the will in addition to the act of the understanding. Assent to the truth is of the essence of faith, and the ultimate ground on which our assent to any revealed truth rests is the veracity of God.

Historical faith is the apprehension of and assent to certain statements which are regarded as mere facts of history.

Temporary faith is that state of mind which is awakened in men (e.g., Felix) by the exhibition of the truth and by the influence of religious sympathy, or by what is sometimes styled the common operation of the Holy Spirit.

Saving faith is so called because it has eternal life inseparably connected with it. It cannot be better defined than in the words of the Assembly's Shorter Catechism: "Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel."

The object of saving faith is the whole revealed Word of God. Faith accepts and believes it as the very truth most sure. But the special act of faith which unites to Christ has as its object the person and the work of the Lord Jesus Christ (Joh 7:38; Ac 16:31). This is the specific act of faith by which a sinner is justified before God (Ro 3:22,25; Ga 2:16; Php 3:9; Joh 3:16-36; Ac 10:43; 16:31). In this act of faith the believer appropriates and rests on Christ alone as Mediator in all his offices.

This assent to or belief in the truth received upon the divine testimony has always associated with it a deep sense of sin, a distinct view of Christ, a consenting will, and a loving heart, together with a reliance on, a trusting in, or resting in Christ. It is that state of mind in which a poor sinner, conscious of his sin, flees from his guilty self to Christ his Saviour, and rolls over the burden of all his sins on him. It consists chiefly, not in the assent given to the testimony of God in his Word, but in embracing with fiducial reliance and trust the one and only Saviour whom God reveals. This trust and reliance is of the essence of faith. By faith the believer directly and immediately appropriates Christ as his own. Faith in its direct act makes Christ ours. It is not a work which God graciously accepts instead of

perfect obedience, but is only the hand by which we take hold of the person and work of our Redeemer as the only ground of our salvation.

Saving faith is a moral act, as it proceeds from a renewed will, and a renewed will is necessary to believing assent to the truth of God (1Co 2:14; 2Co 4:4). Faith, therefore, has its seat in the moral part of our nature fully as much as in the intellectual. The mind must first be enlightened by divine teaching (Joh 6:44; Ac 13:48; 2Co 4:6; Eph 1:17,18) before it can discern the things of the Spirit.

Faith is necessary to our salvation (Mr 16:16), not because there is any merit in it, but simply because it is the sinner's taking the place assigned him by God, his falling in with what God is doing.

The warrant or ground of faith is the divine testimony, not the reasonableness of what God says, but the simple fact that he says it. Faith rests immediately on, "Thus saith the Lord." But in order to this faith the veracity, sincerity, and truth of God must be owned and appreciated, together with his unchangeableness. God's word encourages and emboldens the sinner personally to transact with Christ as God's gift, to close with him, embrace him, give himself to Christ, and take Christ as his. That word comes with power, for it is the word of God who has revealed himself in his works, and especially in the cross. God is to be believed for his word's sake, but also for his name's sake.

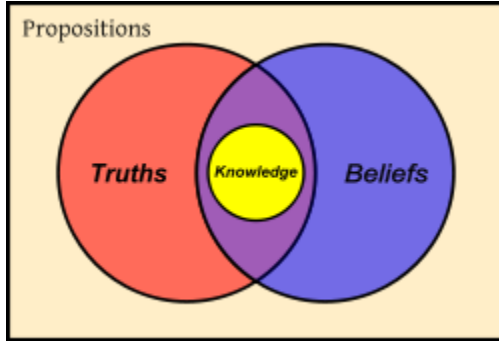
Faith in Christ secures for the believer freedom from condemnation, or justification before God; a participation in the life that is in Christ, the divine life (Joh 14:19; Ro 6:4-10; Eph 4:15,16, etc.); "peace with God" (Ro 5:1); and sanctification (Ac 26:18; Ga 5:6; Ac 15:9).

All who thus believe in Christ will certainly be saved (Joh 6:37,40; 10:27,28; Ro 8:1).

The faith=the gospel (Ac 6:7; Ro 1:5; Ga 1:23; 1Ti 3:9; Jude 1:3).

Epistemology

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



According to [Plato](#), knowledge is a subset of that which is both true and believed

Epistemology or **theory of knowledge** is the branch of Western [philosophy](#) that studies the nature and scope of [knowledge](#) and [belief](#). The term "epistemology" is based on the [Greek](#) words "ἐπιστήμη or [episteme](#)" (knowledge) and "λόγος or [logos](#)" (account/explanation); it was introduced into English by the Scottish philosopher [James Frederick Ferrier](#).^[1] In [Indian philosophy](#), the [Sanskrit](#) term for the equivalent branch of study is "[pramana](#)."

Much of the debate in this field has focused on [analyzing](#) the nature of knowledge and how it relates to similar notions such as [truth](#), [belief](#), and [justification](#). It also deals with the means of production of knowledge, as well as skepticism about different knowledge claims. In other words, epistemology primarily addresses the following questions: "What is knowledge?", "How is knowledge acquired?", and "What do people know?".

There are many different topics, stances, and arguments in the field of epistemology. Recent studies have dramatically challenged centuries-old assumptions, and the discipline therefore continues to be vibrant and dynamic.

Defining knowledge

The first question that will be dealt with is the question of what knowledge is. It is a problem that is several millennia old, and among the most prominent in epistemology.

Distinguishing *knowing that* from *knowing how*

In this article, and in epistemology in general, the kind of knowledge usually discussed is [propositional knowledge](#), also known as "knowledge-that" as

opposed to "knowledge-how". For example: in mathematics, it is knowing *that* $2 + 2 = 4$, but there is also knowing *how* to add two numbers. Or, one knows *how* to ride a bicycle and one knows *that* a bicycle has two wheels.

The distinction is between [*theoretical reason*](#) and [*practical reason*](#), with epistemology being interested primarily in knowledge of the theoretical kind.

Belief

Sometimes, when people say that they believe in something, what they mean is that they predict that it will prove to be useful or successful in some sense—perhaps someone might "believe in" his or her favorite [football](#) team. This is not the kind of belief usually dealt with in epistemology. The kind that *is* dealt with as such is where "to believe something" just means to think that it is true — e.g., to believe that the sky is blue is to think that the proposition, "The sky is blue," is true.

Belief is a part of knowledge. Consider the statement, "I know that *P* is true, but I don't believe that *P* is true." This statement seems to contradict itself. If one knows *P*, then, among other things, one thinks that *P* is indeed true. If one thinks that *P* is true, then one believes *P*. (See the article on [Moore's paradox](#).)

Truth

Knowledge is a distinct category of belief. If someone believes something, he or she thinks that it is the truth. Of course, it might turn out that he or she was mistaken, and that what was thought to be true was actually false. This is not the case with knowledge. For example, suppose that Jeff thinks that a particular bridge is safe, and attempts to cross it; unfortunately, the bridge collapses under his weight. We might say that Jeff *believed* that the bridge was safe, but that his belief was mistaken. We would *not* accurately say that he *knew* that the bridge was safe, because plainly it was not. For something to count as knowledge, it must actually be true.

Justified true belief

In [Plato's](#) dialogue [Theaetetus](#), [Socrates](#) considers a number of theories as to what knowledge is, the last being that knowledge is true belief that has been "given an account of" — meaning explained or defined in some way. According to the theory that knowledge is justified true belief, in order to know that a given proposition is true, one must not only believe the relevant true proposition, but one must also have a good reason for doing so. One implication of this would be that no one would gain knowledge just by believing something that happened to be true. For example, an ill person with no medical training, but a generally optimistic attitude, might believe that she will recover from her illness quickly. Nevertheless, even if this belief turned out to be true, the patient would not have

known that she would get well since her belief lacked justification. The [definition](#) of knowledge as justified true belief was widely accepted until the [1960s](#). At this time, a paper written by the American philosopher [Edmund Gettier](#) provoked widespread discussion.

The Gettier problem

In 1963 [Edmund Gettier](#) called into question the theory of knowledge that had been dominant among philosophers for thousands of years. In a few pages, Gettier argued that there are situations in which one's belief may be justified and true, yet fail to count as knowledge. That is, Gettier contended that while it is necessary for knowledge of a proposition that one be justified in one's true belief in that proposition, it is not sufficient.

According to Gettier, there are certain circumstances in which one does not have knowledge, even when all of the above conditions are met. Gettier proposed two [thought experiments](#), which have come to be known as "Gettier cases", as [counterexamples](#) to the classical account of knowledge. One of the cases involves two men, Smith and Jones, who are awaiting the results of their applications for the same job. Each man has ten coins in his pocket. Smith has excellent reasons to believe that Jones will get the job and, furthermore, knows that Jones has ten coins in his pocket (he recently counted them). From this Smith infers, "the man who will get the job has ten coins in his pocket." However, Smith is unaware that he has ten coins in his own pocket. Furthermore, Smith, not Jones, is going to get the job. While Smith has strong evidence to believe that Jones will get the job, he is wrong. Smith has a justified true belief that a man with ten coins in his pocket will get the job; however, according to Gettier, Smith does not *know* that a man with ten coins in his pocket will get the job, because Smith's belief is "...true in virtue of the number of coins in *Smith's* pocket, while Smith does not know how many coins are in Smith's pocket, and bases his belief...on a count of the coins in Jones's pocket, whom he falsely believes to be the man who will get the job."(see p.122.)

Responses to Gettier

The responses to Gettier have been varied. With respect to the example of Smith and his job, Smith really does know that someone with ten coins in his pocket will get the job. However, some may find this, as a claim to knowledge, counterintuitive. Usually, responses to Gettier have involved substantive attempts to provide a definition of knowledge different from the classical one, either by recasting knowledge as justified true belief with some additional fourth condition, or as something else altogether.

Infallibilism, indefeasibility

In one response to Gettier, the American philosopher [Richard Kirkham](#) has argued that the only definition of knowledge that could ever be immune to all counterexamples is the [infallibilist](#) one. To qualify as an item of knowledge, so the theory goes, a belief must not only be true and justified, the justification of the belief must *necessitate* its truth. In other words, the justification for the belief must be infallible. (See [Fallibilism](#), below, for more information.)

Yet another possible candidate for the fourth condition of knowledge is *indefeasibility*. Defeasibility theory maintains that there should be no overriding or defeating truths for the reasons that justify one's belief. For example, suppose that person S believes they saw Tom Grabit steal a book from the library and uses this to justify the claim that Tom Grabit stole a book from the library. A possible defeater or overriding proposition for such a claim could be a true proposition like, "Tom Grabit's identical twin Sam is currently in the same town as Tom." So long as no defeaters of one's justification exist, a subject would be epistemically justified.

The Indian philosopher [B K Matilal](#) has drawn on the [Nyaya-Nyaya fallibilism](#) tradition to respond to the Gettier problem. Nyaya theory distinguishes between *know p* and *know that one knows p* - these are different events, with different causal conditions. The second level is a sort of implicit inference that usually follows immediately the episode of knowing p (knowledge *simpliciter*). The Gettier case is analyzed by referring to a view of [Gangesha](#) (13th c.), who takes any true belief to be knowledge; thus a true belief acquired through a wrong route may just be regarded as knowledge simpliciter on this view. The question of justification arises only at the second level, when one considers the knowledgehood of the acquired belief. Initially, there is lack of uncertainty, so it becomes a true belief. But at the very next moment, when the hearer is about to embark upon the venture of knowing whether he *knows p*, doubts may arise. "If, in some Gettier-like cases, I am wrong in my inference about the knowledgehood of the given occurrent belief (for the evidence may be pseudo-evidence), then I am mistaken about the truth of my belief -- and this is in accord with Nyaya fallibilism: not all knowledge-claims can be sustained."

Reliabilism

Reliabilism is a theory advanced by philosophers such as [Alvin Goldman](#) according to which a belief is justified (or otherwise supported in such a way as to count towards knowledge) only if it is produced by processes that typically yield a sufficiently high ratio of true to false beliefs. In other words, as per its name, this theory states that a true belief counts as knowledge only if it is produced by a reliable belief-forming process.

Reliabilism has been challenged by Gettier cases. A prominent such case is that of Henry and the barn façades. In the thought experiment, a man, Henry, is driving along and sees a number of buildings that resemble barns. Based on his

perception of one of these, he concludes that he has just seen barns. While he has seen one, and the perception he based his belief on was of a real barn, all the other barn-like buildings he saw were façades. Theoretically, Henry doesn't know that he has seen a barn, despite both his belief that he has seen one being true and his belief being formed on the basis of a reliable process (i.e. his vision), since he only acquired his true belief by accident.

Other responses

The American philosopher [Robert Nozick](#) has offered the following definition of knowledge:

S knows that *P* if and only if:

- *P*;
- S believes that *P*;
- if *P* were false, S would not believe that *P*;
- if *P* is true, S will believe that *P*.

The British philosopher [Simon Blackburn](#) has criticized this formulation by suggesting that we do not want to accept as knowledge beliefs which, while they "track the truth" (as Nozick's account requires), are not held for appropriate reasons. He says that "we do not want to award the title of knowing something to someone who is only meeting the conditions through a defect, flaw, or failure, compared with someone else who is not meeting the conditions."

Finally, at least one philosopher, [Timothy Williamson](#), has advanced a theory of knowledge according to which knowledge is not justified true belief plus some extra condition(s). In his book [Knowledge and its Limits](#), Williamson argues that the concept of knowledge cannot be analyzed into a set of other concepts—instead, it is *sui generis*. Thus, though knowledge requires justification, truth, and belief, the word "knowledge" can't be, according to Williamson's theory, accurately regarded as simply shorthand for "justified true belief".

Externalism and internalism

Part of the debate over the nature of knowledge is a debate between epistemological externalists on the one hand, and epistemological internalists on the other. Externalists think that factors deemed "external", meaning outside of the psychological states of those who gain knowledge, can be conditions of knowledge. For example, an externalist response to the Gettier problem is to say that, in order for a justified, true belief to count as knowledge, it must be caused, in the right sort of way, by relevant facts. Such causation, to the extent that it is "outside" the mind, would count as an external, knowledge-yielding condition. Internalists, contrariwise, claim that all knowledge-yielding conditions are within the psychological states of those who gain knowledge.

Acquiring knowledge

The second question that will be dealt with is the question of how knowledge is acquired. This area of epistemology covers what is called "the regress problem", issues concerning epistemic distinctions such as that between experience and apriority as means of creating knowledge and that between analysis and synthesis as means of proof, and debates such as the one between empiricists and rationalists.

The regress problem

Suppose we make a point of asking for a justification for every belief. Any given justification will itself depend on another belief for its justification, so one can also reasonably ask for this to be justified, and so forth. This appears to lead to an infinite regress, with each belief justified by some further belief. The apparent impossibility of completing an infinite chain of reasoning is thought by some to support [skepticism](#). The skeptic will argue that since no one can complete such a chain, ultimately no beliefs are justified and, therefore, no one knows anything. However, many epistemologists studying justification have attempted to argue for various types of chains of reasoning that can escape the regress problem.

Some philosophers, notably [Peter Klein](#) in his "Human Knowledge and the Infinite Regress of Reasons", have argued that it's not impossible for an infinite justificatory series to exist. This position is known as "[infinetism](#)". Infinitists typically take the infinite series to be merely potential, in the sense that an individual may have indefinitely many reasons available to him, without having consciously thought through all of these reasons. The individual need only have the ability to bring forth the relevant reasons when the need arises. This position is motivated in part by the desire to avoid what is seen as the arbitrariness and circularity of its chief competitors, foundationalism and coherentism.

[Foundationalists](#) respond to the regress problem by claiming that some beliefs that support other beliefs do not themselves require justification by other beliefs. Sometimes, these beliefs, labeled "foundational", are characterized as beliefs that one is directly aware of the truth of, or as beliefs that are self-justifying, or as beliefs that are infallible. According to one particularly permissive form of foundationalism, a belief may count as foundational, in the sense that it may be presumed true until defeating evidence appears, as long as the belief seems to its believer to be true. Others have argued that a belief is justified if it is based on perception or certain *a priori* considerations.

The chief criticism of foundationalism is that it allegedly leads to the arbitrary or unjustified acceptance of certain beliefs.

Another response to the regress problem is [coherentism](#), which is the rejection of the assumption that the regress proceeds according to a pattern of linear

justification. The original coherentist model for chains of reasoning was circular. [\[citation needed\]](#) This model was broadly repudiated, for obvious reasons. [\[citation needed\]](#) Most [coherentists](#) now hold that an individual belief is not justified circularly, but by the way it fits together (coheres) with the rest of the belief system of which it is a part. This theory has the advantage of avoiding the infinite regress without claiming special, possibly arbitrary status for some particular class of beliefs. Yet, since a system can be coherent while also being wrong, coherentists face the difficulty in ensuring that the whole system [corresponds](#) to reality.

There is also a position known as "[foundherentism](#)". [Susan Haack](#) is the philosopher who conceived it, and it is meant to be a unification of foundationalism and coherentism. One component of this theory is what is called the "analogy of the crossword puzzle". Whereas, say, infinists regard the regress of reasons as "shaped" like a single line, Susan Haack has argued that it is more like a crossword puzzle, with multiple lines mutually supporting each other.

A priori and a posteriori knowledge

For centuries, a distinction has been made between two kinds of knowledge: *a priori* and *a posteriori*. The nature of this distinction has been disputed by various philosophers; however, the terms may be roughly defined as follows:

- *A priori* knowledge is knowledge that is known independently of experience (that is, it is non-empirical).
- *A posteriori* knowledge is knowledge that is known by experience (that is, it is empirical).

Analytic/synthetic distinction

Some propositions are such that we appear to be justified in believing them just so far as we understand their meaning. For example, consider, "My father's brother is my uncle." We seem to be justified in believing it to be true by virtue of our knowledge of what its terms mean. Philosophers call such propositions "analytic". Synthetic propositions, on the other hand, have distinct subjects and predicates. An example of a synthetic proposition would be, "My father's brother has black hair."

Although the American philosopher [W. V. O. Quine](#), in his "[Two Dogmas of Empiricism](#)", famously challenged it, leading to its being taken to be less obviously real than it once seemed, it is still widely believed that there is a distinction between analysis and synthesis. [\[citation needed\]](#)

Specific theories of knowledge acquisition

Empiricism

In philosophy generally, empiricism is a theory of knowledge emphasizing the role of experience and power. Certain forms treat all knowledge as empirical,^[citation needed] while some regard disciplines such as [mathematics](#) and [logic](#) as exceptions.^[citation needed]

Empiricism departs from earlier forms of epistemologic thought, which attempted to separate truth and values. Innate truths were absolute, and independent of our values. They are always true. Values, derived from human experience are collected and analyzed based on our facts, but may not be true.

Empiricism therefore supposes that truth is not innate, and relies merely on the experience and analysis. However, it does allow for the possibility that we may have a bias of our own. This logical paradox lead to an interesting dilemma for philosophers of the time to question their own existence.

Rationalism

Rationalists believe that knowledge is primarily (at least in some areas) acquired by *a priori* processes or is [innate](#)—e.g., in the form of concepts not derived from experience. The relevant theoretical processes often go by the name "[intuition](#)".^[citation needed] The relevant theoretical concepts may purportedly be part of the structure of the human [mind](#) (as in [Kant](#)'s theory of [transcendental idealism](#)), or they may be said to exist independently of the mind (as in Plato's [theory of Forms](#)).

The extent to which this innate human knowledge is emphasized over experience as a means to acquire knowledge varies from rationalist to rationalist. Some hold that knowledge of any kind can only be gained *a priori*, while others claim that some knowledge can also be gained *a posteriori*. Consequently, the borderline between rationalist epistemologies and others can be vague.

Constructivism

Constructivism is a view in philosophy according to which all knowledge is "constructed" in as much as it is contingent on convention, human perception, and social experience. It originated in sociology under the term "social constructionism" and has been given the name "constructivism" when referring to philosophical epistemology, though "constructionism" and "constructivism" are often used interchangeably.

What do people know?

The last question that will be dealt with is the question of what people know. At the heart of this area of study is [skepticism](#), with many approaches involved trying to disprove some particular form of it.

General skepticism

General skepticism is the philosophical school of thought that critically examines whether knowledge and perceptions are true and whether one can ever have true knowledge.

Responses to general skepticism

Contextualism

Contextualism in epistemology is the claim that knowledge varies with the context in which it is attributed. More precisely, contextualism is the claim that, in a sentence of the form, "S knows that *P*," the relation between *S* and *P* depends on the context of discussion. According to the contextualist, the term "knows" is context-sensitive in a way similar to words such as "poor", "tall", and "flat". (Opposed to this contextualism are several forms of what is called "[invariantism](#)", the theory that the meaning of the term "knowledge", and hence the proposition expressed by the sentence, "S knows that *P*," does not vary from context to context.) The motivation behind contextualism is the idea that, in the context of discussion with an extreme skeptic about knowledge, there is a very high standard for the accurate ascription of knowledge, while in ordinary usage, there is a lower standard. Hence, contextualists attempt to evade skeptical conclusions by maintaining that skeptical arguments against knowledge are not relevant to our ordinary usages of the term.

Fallibilism

For most of philosophical history, "knowledge" was taken to mean belief that was true and justified to an absolute [certainty](#). Early in the 20th Century, however, the notion that belief had to be justified as such to count as knowledge lost favour. Fallibilism is the view that knowing something does not entail certainty regarding it. As a response to skepticism...

Practical applications

Far from being purely academic, the study of epistemology is useful for a great many applications. It is particularly commonly employed in issues of law where proof of guilt or innocence may be required, or when it must be determined whether a person knew a particular fact before taking a specific action (e.g., whether an action was premeditated).

Other common applications of epistemology include:

- Mathematics and science
- History and archaeology
- Medicine (diagnosis of disease)
- Product testing (How can we know that the product will not fail?)
- Intelligence gathering
- Religion and Apologetics
- [Cognitive Science](#)
- [Artificial Intelligence](#)
- [Psychology](#)
- [Linguistics](#)

See also

- | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| • Adaptive representation | • Evidentiality | • Reason |
| • Analytic tradition | • Methodology | • Self-evidence |
| • Bayesian probability | • Methods of obtaining knowledge | • Social epistemology |
| • Constructivist epistemology | • Objectivist epistemology | • Virtue epistemology |
| • Eastern epistemology | • Platonic epistemology | |
| • Evidentialism | | |

Notes

1. [^] ["James Frederick Ferrier", Britannica Concise Encyclopedia](#)
2. [^] Kuijp, Leonard W. J. van der (ed.) (1983). *Contributions to the development of Tibetan Buddhist epistemology: from the eleventh to the thirteenth century*. F. Steiner.
3. [^] [\[1\]](#)
4. [^] ^{[a](#)} ^{[b](#)} Gettier, Edmund (1963). "Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?". *Analysis* **23**: 121-23.
5. [^] Bimal Krishna Matilal (1986). *Perception: An essay on Classical Indian Theories of Knowledge*. Oxford India 2002. The Gettier problem is dealt with in Chapter 4, *Knowledge as a mental episode*. The thread continues in the next chapter *Knowing that one knows*. It is also discussed in Matilal's *Word and the World* p. 71-72.

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External links and references

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy articles:

- [Bayesian Epistemology](#) - by William Talbott.
- [Epistemology](#) - by Matthias Steup.
- [Evolutionary Epistemology](#) - by Michael Bradie & William Harms.
- [Feminist Epistemology and Philosophy of Science](#) - by Elizabeth Anderson.
- [Naturalized Epistemology](#) - by Richard Feldman.
- [Social Epistemology](#) - by Alvin Goldman.
- [Virtue Epistemology](#) - by John Greco.

Other links:

- [What Is Epistemology?](#) - a brief introduction to the topic by Keith DeRose.
- [Certain Doubts](#) - a group blog run by Jonathan Kvanvig, with many leading epistemologists as contributors.
- [The Epistemological Lifeboat](#) - by Birger Hjørland & Jeppe Nicolaisen (eds.)
- [The Epistemology Page](#) - by Keith DeRose.
- [Justified True Belief and Critical Rationalism](#) - by Mathew Toll
- [Epistemology Papers](#) a collection of Michael Huemer's.
- [Epistemology Introduction, Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#) - by Paul Newall at the Galilean Library.
- [Teaching Theory of Knowledge \(1986\)](#) - Marjorie Clay (ed.), an electronic publication from The Council for Philosophical Studies.
- [Epistemology: The Philosophy of Knowledge](#) - an introduction at Groovyweb.
- [Introduction to Theory of Knowledge](#) - from PhilosophyOnline.
- [Theory of Knowledge](#) - an introduction to epistemology, exploring the various theories of knowledge, justification, and belief.
- [A Theory of Knowledge](#) by Clóvis Juárez Kemmerich, on the Social Science Research Network, 2006.
- [An Introduction to Epistemology](#) - by Paul Newall, aimed at beginners.

Early Magic Practices

(February 20, 2007)

So we continue with an examination of LDS Church history.

We left off with a summary of Joseph Smith Juniors early life.

I have to admit, I have been a little troubled as I was preparing this show over the last week.

Part of it is due to the fact that it is tough to address this topic fairly and in the context of early 19th century rural America **and** partly because I'm not certain that what I will report will be taken in the way that it should.

Let me explain.

You're all aware that we offer a meeting called "Heart in the Home" or "Heart in the Church" where we come out and talk about our ministry as it relates to Mormonism.

I have noticed that as we've done more and more of these meetings that there is a growing desire on the part of many people to hear nothing but the salacious stories and events about Mormonism and NOT the things that might, in the long run, help bring Mormonism to a regenerative relationship with the Lord.

I suppose it can be far more entertaining or exciting for people to hear about temple secrets or mystical black magic practices of Joseph than about how to reach present-day members with messages of the Lord.

	<p>I understand why this is so. We are humans all. Flesh and blood.</p> <p>As the author of the title of our show title once said, "We want dirty laundry."</p> <p>The question we must constantly ask ourselves as we seek to reach our LDS friends and family with the Lord is "What will this information do to teach Jesus better to the LDS?"</p> <p>"Does this information help me understand Mormonism and its members better or does it make things worse?"</p> <p>"Will this piece of information be used improperly, and then reused in order to win an argument rather than offer Him as the true replacement to a faulty theology.</p> <p>Sometimes it seems like there are people out there who, because they can't feel enough joy in their own relationship with the Lord, spend all their time relishing in the dirty details of other aberrant faiths.</p> <p>I am constantly accused of this very thing.</p> <p>But my motives are to paint a correct picture so the Church and its doctrines can be understood as they stand next to Biblical Christianity.</p> <p>I am not providing factoids like munitions.</p> <p>I am providing shades of light and dark to bring forth dimension.</p> <p>As Christians, we cannot be like the empty housewife who focuses on micromanaging her daughter's marriage because hers is so abysmal and she's got nothing better to do.</p> <p>We examine Mormonism because we want</p>
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Our topic tonight is about the magic practices of the Smith family prior to and around the time of Joseph receiving what the LDS call “the first vision.”

to understand Mormons NOT because we want to feel better about our own walk, but because we want to share what we have with the LDS who are in lack!

The evidence and information on the Smith families involvement in folk magic is substantial.

If you take the time and read a book like early Mormonism and the Magic World View by D. Michael Quinn, you will be blown away.

But in my opinion, it must be taken in and digested properly if it is going to be of any use to your understanding the religion to which you belong or in your efforts to bringing Latter-day Saints to the Lord.

Listen,

I do not think that the magic practices of the Smith's condemn them as people nor prove Mormonism false.

There are far more important and substantive things that do this.

In fact, to focus on the magic is to reduce the impact the other more significant themes have on the counterfeit gospel.

Why do I say this? Isn't the fact that the Smith's were involved in magic prove they were charlatans from the get go?

Not completely.

In the context of rural 19th century early America – like in and around the Palmyra, New York area – folk magic practices were common.

As mentioned, D. Michael Quinn, who wrote *“Early Mormonism and the Magic World View* said:

“A very important factor in Palmyra’s treasure-digging of the 1820’s is that the local newspaper endorsed it.”

What did the local, and even the national newspapers, say about such practices?

The same paper reported that another Vermonter dug up treasure in the “sum of fifty-thousand dollars.”

Even a national science journal in 1826 reported on folk magic activities as though they

In an 1822 column titled, “Money Diggers,” the local newspaper in Palmyra, speaking of money-digging, reported:

“Much, however, depends on the skillful use of the genuine mineral rod.” The paper then told of a man in Vermont who, *“after digging with unyielding confidence and unabating diligence for ten or twelve years, found a sufficient quantity of money to build him a commodious home for his own convenience, and to fill it with comforts for weary travelers.”*

A Massachusetts magazine, published an article on folk magic in 1833 which read:

“Men of reputation and character, whose intelligence would prevent a deception upon their own minds, and whose known honesty forbids the suspicion of any attempt to lead others into error, have used the . . . art of discovering streams of water

were an accepted ubiquitous practice.

“From north to south, from east to west, the divining rod has its advocates. Men in various callings, men above the reach of mean arts, men of the soundest judgment, of large information, and of the most exemplary lives, do not disown the art, and when a friend demands their aid, rarely if ever, is it made the means of extortion.”

Quinn quotes from the same article, which was reprinted in a Vermont newspaper:

“We could name, if we pleased, at least five hundred respectable men, who do, in the simplicity of their hearts, verily believe that immense treasures lie concealed upon our Green Mountains; many of whom have been for a number of years, most industriously and perseveringly engaged in digging it up. Some of them have succeeded beyond their most sanguine expectations.”

or veins of minerals beneath the surface of the earth by the mysterious properties of the hazel wand.”

Maybe if you examine your own life in this day and age, you will discover some connection to folk-lore beliefs and magical ideation.

Several years ago, my father and younger brother and I tried our hand at farming.

Our small piece of land was in Hemet, California and one of the first things we

	<p>wanted to do was drill for water.</p> <p>My Dad found a guy who came highly recommended by the farmers in the area to locate the spots where we should drill.</p> <p>You know how he did it?</p> <p>He took a metal rod in the shape of a Y, held it upside down and walked around for about an hour. When the thing dipped, he said water was there.</p> <p>I was incredulous and mocking.</p> <p>But we dug where he said, and struck water.</p> <p>And he was paid handsomely for what seemed to me to be a ridiculous feat.</p> <p>I'm not sure things have changed all too much.</p> <p>Ever spill salt on a table?</p> <p>Ever step on a crack and think of your poor mothers back?</p> <p>Ever walk under a ladder or think twice when a black cat walks across your path?</p> <p>The first week of my mission in Harrisburg Pennsylvania, my companion and I knocked on a members door and she arrived all freaked out.</p> <p>She said that that afternoon a bird and flown straight into her living room window and she feared the sun to rise.</p> <p>"Why's that?" I asked.</p> <p>"Don't you know that when a bird flies into a window of your home and dies someone</p>
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<p>Most people, if they have been around long enough, are exposed to some very unusual folklorish beliefs and susperstitions.</p> <p>In rural America, even some of the best of men and women were convinced of the more unusual practices.</p> <p>This did not make them evil or failing. It just showed that they were susceptible to the mystical beliefs of their day.</p>	<p>you love will die within three days?”</p> <p>My comp and I had a great laugh as we walked home talking about it.</p> <p>A week later, as I sat in our kitchen reading the scriptures, a bird flew straight into the window over the sink.</p> <p>I ran outside and there it lay, dead on the ground.</p> <p>I remembered what the lady had said and kind of smiled to myself.</p> <p>That night my mission president called to tell me my grandfather died that day.</p> <p>I am going to describe several of the documented practices and stories about the Smith's and their back-wooded beliefs in magic practices.</p> <p>But try not to take the sensational path when you hear this stuff by pointing fingers at the Smith's and screaming, “Warlock”, but instead ask yourselves:</p> <p>How did these practices contribute to the start of Mormonism?</p>
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<p>Soon after moving into the Township of Manchester in 1820, Joseph Smith Senior, Alvin, and Joseph Junior developed a preoccupation with treasure seeking.</p> <p>The two Joseph Smith's claimed to have the ability to locate treasure by virtue of divination and clairvoyance.</p> <p>Present-day Mormonism often portrays Joseph Junior as passively participating in some youthful treasure hunts as a teen.</p> <p>This is not an accurate depiction.</p> <p>With his father, the boy prophet was very involved in a number of different mystical / magical activities and actually became well known locally for his abilities.</p> <p>In 1822 a man named Peter Ingersoll, whose land bordered on the north of the Smith's property, was asked by Joseph Smith Senior (the prophet's father) to follow him to find buried treasure.</p> <p>Supposedly they walked toward the Smith cabin where Joseph Sr. thought treasure was buried.</p> <p>Joseph Sr. took a pocket knife and cut a forked rod, which he placed in Ingersoll's hands and instructed him to say to the rod "work to the money, work to the money."</p> <p>Apparently, Ingersoll did not have the gift and at length Senior Smith began throwing himself all around</p>	<p>Ask yourself if the magic practices and beliefs of the founding family would in any way shape the way Latter-day Saints discern truth?</p>
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and in to different shapes to
“encourage the rod.”

These actions did not convince
Ingersol of anything and he
reportedly quit his search. This
caused senior Smith to say he
thought “he had seen the rod
actually move in his hand.”

Moments later, when Ingersol
picked up a stone to throw at some
birds, Joseph Juniors father
declared that the stone he had
picked up was in fact a seer stone.

Said Smith, “If you only knew the
value that there is at the back of
my house” and then he suddenly
pointed to an area and said:

“There! There is one chest of gold
and another of silver!”

Ingersoll said the Joseph Sr. then
took the stone from him and placed
it in his hat before walking about
bent over toward to earth sort of
like a pigeon.

He then pulled his face out of the
hat, and looking exhausted said in
a faint voice,

“If you had seen what I had seen,
you would believe.”

Believing in what other mystics claim to
have seen is not only vital to treasure
seeking, it was vital to the establishment of
Mormonism, and it continues to be vital
today to the authoritarian leadership of the
present-day Church.

<p>The Chase and Smith families would often search for buried or lost treasure together.</p> <p>Joseph was intrigued with Sally Chase's seer stone, even asking her to find treasure for him.</p> <p>Soon intrigue turned to imitation as Joseph picked up the trade.</p> <p>One day, while visiting with Sally, Joseph, asked Sally if he could look into her stone.</p> <p>She agreed. And Joseph did what he did best – he out conned the con because he said he saw another magical seer stone buried somewhere in Western New York near Lake Erie “under the roots of a tree or shrub as long as his arm!”</p> <p>He said that the stone “became luminous, and dazzled his eyes, and after a short-time became as “intense as the noon-day sun.”</p> <p>Those of you familiar with the Church will recognize that the idea of “stones becoming luminous” and bright is a theme also found in the Book of Mormon.</p>	<p>In 1822 the Smith's had another set of neighbors who were equally involved in money-digging.</p> <p>They were named Chase. The Chase's had a daughter named Sally who had, prior to Joseph, made quite a name for herself in being able to locate lost items in the neighborhood.</p>
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<p>Sometime in the fall of 1822, Joseph and Alvin were hired by Williard Chase, Sally's brother, to dig a well.</p> <p>In the hole, Willard found a unique stone that was "shaped like a baby's shoe, was about the size of a hen's egg and was dark brown."</p> <p>Willard recalled that as they examined it,</p> <p>"Joseph put it into his hat, and then his face into the top of his hat." Chase did not report what Joseph said he saw but did report that Joseph asked him if he could have the stone the following day.</p> <p>Chase declined to give it, but agreed to loan it to the would be prophet. Over the next two years, Joseph built a large reputation as a scryer using the rock.</p> <p>Remember, and be very clear on this:</p> <p>Joseph Smith did NOT translate the Book of Mormon by looking at the many pages on supposed gold plates but by</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) By Joseph Smith looking into his favorite "seer-stone." 	<p>Ether 6:2-3</p> <p><i>"For it came to pass after the Lord had prepared the stones which the brother of Jared had carried up to the mount, the brother of Jared came down from the mount, and he did put forth the stones in the vessels which were prepared, one in each end thereof, and behold, they did give light unto the vessels, and thus the Lord caused stones to shine in darkness, to give light unto men, women, and children, that they might not cross the great waters in darkness."</i></p>
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<p>2) By Joseph Smith looking into a hat and dictating what he saw.</p> <p>3) By Joseph Smith receiving revelation directly from heaven and reciting it to a scribe.</p> <p>In addition to scrying, primary</p>	<p>There are a few things to consider as we describe what we know about the Smith activities in these mystical arts.</p> <p>First, what treasure were they seeking? Was it money buried by fleeing families in the revolutionary war or was it Indian artifacts and gold thought to be immersed in the hills around them?</p> <p>Lorenzo Saunder's reports that when a group of men lead by Joseph Junior was digging on the "northeast side of a hill" in search of a hidden cave that young Joe would say "he could see a man sitting in a gold chair" and that old Joe would add That the man was an old king from a Native tribe who was shut up inside during one of their big battles."</p> <p>Again, does this sound familiar?</p> <p>Could such a belief that such treasure did in fact exist lend to the developing story line of a set of Golden plates buried beneath the earth with a written history engraved upon it?</p> <p>Was treasure seeking an activity that actually "prepared Joseph to become a prophet of God," as LDS Historian</p>
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<p>historical documents have Joseph Junior involved in a number of other magic or mystical practices before, during, and after the first vision and the announcement of there being buried golden plates.</p> <p>These activities included:</p>	<p>Bushman asserts, or was it merely early training in the art of convincing, manipulating, and even deceiving others to believe his far-fetched stories?</p>
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First Vision

~ Part 1 of 2

(February 27, 2007)

Email insights:

I get some regular emailers who seem to think they are so enlightened that when I read their rhetoric, I'm gonna change my tune and just, well, do what they want.

One person, who goes by the name of Eric Johnson. Eric is LDS. Listen to the acceleration of anger Eric experienced as he repeatedly bombards me with emails:

A couple also posted their comments on the website to me:

On a good note, we also get emails like this:

Have you ever heard the saying:
"You can't cheat an honest man?"

It means that when somebody gets cheated, they usually deserved it because they had faulty ambitions in the first place.

Con men and women – grifters, scam artists, players – are successful because they have learned to promise people things that play upon their egos, their greed, or their inordinate desire for belonging or success.

Con men and women commit fraud by

making exorbitant promises of certainty where certainty does not exist, by offering the highest returns on an investment, the greatest revelations known to man, a glimmer of the highest hopes, and the ability to possess and obtain the unknowable.

In June of 1998, in the Desert News, page 7, LDS President Gordon B. Hinckley said that the Mormon Church is:

“the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth.”

THIS IS AN EXTREME CLAIM.

Later, while visiting Switzerland, and in reference to those outside Mormonism who say that the LDS do not believe in the “traditional Christ,” Gordon B. Hinckley, when asked if he believed in the traditional Christ said . . .

“No, I don’t. The traditional Christ of whom they speak is not the Christ of whom I speak. For the Christ of whom I speak has been revealed in this dispensation of the Fullness of Times. He, together with His Father, appeared to the boy Joseph Smith in the year 1820, and when Joseph left the grove that day, he knew more of the nature of God than all the learned ministers of the gospel of all the ages.”

ANOTHER VERY AGGRESSIVE AND EXTREME CLAIM.

	<p>Speaking of Joseph Smith's first vision, Hinckley later said, in October 7th 2002 and as quoted in the Salt Lake Tribune, that</p> <p><i>"Our whole strength rests on the validity of that (first) vision . . . it either occurred or it did not occur. If it did not, then this work is a fraud. If it did, then it is the most wonderful and important work under the heavens."</i></p> <p>If this, then that. If this, then that.</p> <p>The prophet of the LDS Church, in an attitude of "no one can prove the first vision false," states that If the first vision occurred, it's the most important thing to ever happen. But if it didn't, then it is a fraud!</p> <p>I take this as a direct challenge to test the evidence.</p> <p>But how can we tell if Joseph Smith's claims of a First Vision were genuine or fraudulent?</p> <p>How can we discern the truth from error, the hyperbole from the reliable, the con from the trustworthy?</p> <p>I suggest that we can discover the reality in the same manner that a detective can tell if a criminal is telling the truth – by their testimony, by the proofs they provide, by the things they say over a period of time.</p> <p>Gordon B. Hinckley is not the</p>
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	<p>first prophet of the Mormon Church to lay out an “If/Then” argument for whether Joseph Smith was genuine or a fraud.</p> <p>In Doctrines of Salvation, (Volume 1, page 188), President Joseph Fielding Smith gave an even better “either/or” for the members of this church. He said:</p> <p><i>“Mormonism, as it is called, must stand or fall on the story of Joseph Smith. He was either a prophet of God, divinely called, properly appointed and commissioned OR he was one of the biggest frauds this world has ever seen.</i></p> <p><i>There is no middle ground.</i></p> <p><i>If Joseph Smith was a deceiver, who willfully attempted to deceive people, then he should be exposed; his claims should be refuted, and his doctrines to be shown false, <u>for the doctrines of an imposter cannot be made to harmonize in all particulars with divine truth.</u></i></p> <p><i>If his claims and declarations were built upon deceit and fraud, it would be easy to find errors and contradictions.”</i></p> <p>So we’re faced with a challenge which comes directly from the mouth of the LDS prophets – prove Joseph a fraud if he’s a fraud or prove him truthful if there are no errors and contradictions to be found.</p>
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	<p>There is no middle ground, they say!</p> <p>Mormonism claims that it is the only true Church on the face of the earth and . . .</p> <p>Gordon B. Hinckley claims that Mormonism has <i>“a perfect knowledge of the nature of God which came through the first vision of Joseph Smith”</i> and remember, he also said that, <i>“when Joseph left the grove that day, he knew more of the nature of God than all the learned ministers of the gospel of all the ages.”</i></p> <p>I say we test these claims with all the available information at our disposal.</p>
<p>Now in a court of law, one of the most reliable ways to tell if a person is a trustworthy witness is by the consistency of their story.</p> <p>You will often hear detectives and police say things like, “Well, we got suspicious when the suspect started changing their story,” or “When they started adding in details we had never heard before we knew something was wrong.”</p> <p>As parents we know something is fishy the minute we hear conflicting details.</p> <p>And we know as liars that our story needs to be consistent.</p> <p>We are going to begin to examine what I think is one of the biggest smoking guns in the fraud in Joseph Smith’s Mormonism today – the first vision.</p>	

<p>I do this at the invitation of the prophets of the church, who claim Joseph Smith's vision was either true or it was fraudulent and to prove it either way.</p> <p>Now Joseph Smith's first vision is VITAL to Mormonism for two very important reasons:</p> <p>First, it establishes the credibility of Joseph Smith and his experiences as either fraudulent con or genuine prophet.</p> <p>Second . . .</p> <p>It is the basis for the LDS claim that the trinity is a ridiculous construct of man because by virtue of Joseph's first vision he claimed that God the Father has a body of flesh and bone – a concept that is absolutely foreign to what the Bible claims!</p> <p>Tonight, we are just going to cover the credibility of the First Vision claims. I think you are going to be shocked with what the evidence reveals.</p> <p>Next week, we will examine the problems with early Mormon teachings about God.</p>	
<p>To give us some bearings, it is important to hear the official version of the First Vision that is told in the LDS Church today.</p> <p>This is the standard story told in Church and it is what the LDS missionaries teach all around the world as truth.</p> <p>You can read it in full in the LDS scripture called the Pearl of Great Price under History of Joseph Smith.</p> <p>The official version says, in effect that . . .</p> <p>In 1820, when Joseph Smith was a <i>fourteen</i></p>	

year old boy, there was “no small stir” among the people of his community who were debating which church was true.

Joseph himself described it as a time of religious revival, where the “*Methodists, Presbyterians, and Baptists . . . were “in the midst of a war and tumult of opinions.”* Joseph wrote that “*I often asked myself, “What is to be done?”*”

And after reading a powerful passage in the Bible (James 1:5) he retired to a grove of trees to pray.

While in prayer, he was overcome by a dark and powerful spirit, and then a pillar of light appeared exactly over his head, which was brighter than the noon-day sun.

Smith recorded:

“When the light rested upon me I saw two personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air. One of them spoke unto me, calling me by name and said, pointing to the other – “This is my beloved Son, hear Him.”

Now remember, this is the official version that is found in the Pearl of Great Price, is taught throughout the Church today, and is replicated in all of its manuals.

The story goes on with Smith saying:

“My object in going to inquire of the Lord was to know which of all sects was right, that I might know which to join. No sooner , therefore did I get possession of myself, so as to be able to speak, than I asked the personages that stood above me in the light, which of all the sects was right (for at this time it had never entered my heart that they were all wrong) and which I should join. I was answered that I must join none of them, for

<p><i>they were all wrong; and the personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were abomination in His sight; that those professors were all corrupt.”</i> (PoGP JS History 1:17-19)</p> <p>In this official account Joseph Smith mentions his age (14) where he was living (Manchester), and that there was a great revival in the area.</p>	
	<p>Let’s start with these basics of this official story and work our way through, testing and comparing the claims to the evidences we now have.</p> <p>First, let’s look at Joseph Smith’s dating of 1820, the year he would have been a 14 year old boy.</p> <p>Microfilm records of road repairs prove that the Smith’s could not have lived in the area described by Joseph until after April 1822 – when Joseph was at least 16 years old, not 14.</p> <p>The only recorded and recognized revivals in the area, based on the newspapers and Church conversion records, were in 1824-1825 – when Joseph would have been 17 years old, not 14.</p> <p>Property assessment records show that a cabin was built on the land that Smith describes between 1822 and 1823 – when Joseph was between 16 and 17 years old.</p> <p>Remember, Joseph said that the revivals took place two years</p>

after moving to the Manchester area, which would have made the year 1824–1825 and Joseph a minimum of 18 – 19 years of age, not 14.

Joseph's brother William, one of the original 12 apostles of the Church, said that "the revival of the area" was led by a reverend Lane in 1823, again when Joseph would have been 17, not 14.

Additionally, church records of the Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians show a marked increase of memberships in 1824 – when Joseph was 17 to 18 years of age – and nothing but a dearth of growth in the year 1820.

Based on Joseph Smith's age-claims verses the substantiated evidence, the story fails the test of authenticity with regard to his age.

Even if there had indeed been a first vision, Joseph could not have been 14 years old. He had to have been at least 16 – and was more probably 17 when such a vision was to occur.

This becomes very important because when Joseph was 17 years of age the year would have been 1823.

And 1823 is the year that the Church officially claims the Angel Moroni visited Joseph and told him about the Gold plates.

	<p>It is also the year many early church leaders state that everything in Mormonism began.</p> <p>I suggest, and will later show through the evidence, the there was no first vision of God the Father and His Son in the year 1820 when Joseph was a 14 year old boy, but instead the real “first vision” was actually the event where Joseph claimed an angel came and visited him.</p> <p>But for continuity, let’s stay on task relative to Joseph Smith’s claims.</p>
<p>The first Church sanctioned version of the First Vision was published in <u><i>The Times and Seasons</i></u> in 1842 – 22 years after Joseph Smith claimed that it first occurred!</p> <p>Joseph said in this official version that he had confided in a minister about the vision and was told that it “<i>was of the devil.</i>” He added that</p> <p><i>“I soon found, however, that my telling the story <u>excited a great deal of prejudice against me among professors of religion, and was the cause of great persecution, which continued to increase;</u> and though I was an obscure boy, only between fourteen and fifteen years of age, and my circumstances in life as to make a boy of no consequence in the world, yet <u>men of high standing would take notice sufficient to excite the public mind against me, and create a bitter persecution;</u> and this was <u>common among all the sects</u> – all united to persecute me.”</i></p> <p>So we have another claim by Joseph Smith (which he provided 22 years after it supposedly occurred). It was that</p> <p>Joseph, back in 1820, told men of “high</p>	

standing” about his vision of God the Father and Jesus Christ appearing to him, that caused “great persecution,” which “increased over time,” “sufficient enough to excite the public mind” and “created bitter persecution among all the sects” against him.

But guess what?

There is no record of any of this from any other source!

None!

No journal records a 14, 15, 16, or 17 year old boy who claimed he saw God the Father.

No biography or autobiography mentions it.

Where the town and people and papers were all over the fact that he had claimed that there were golden plates, no newspaper clipping or article said anything about a “first vision” of God and Jesus!

Not even a record from Joseph Smith himself made such a claim until almost 2 decades later!

Even the first published Mormon history, collaborated on by Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery in 1834, ignored the event all together!

Gordon B Hinckley says that “*the Churches whole strength relies on the validity of this vision*” and nobody in Mormonism really even knew about it until well after 1838! Eighteen years after it was supposed to have happened!

And, and, and here is a real clincher: Most of the early church and its leaders even believed that the first vision was when Moroni came to pay Joseph a visit!

They thought – and based on the evidence, they thought correctly – that either there was no “first vision” of God the Father and Jesus Christ appearing to Joseph OR they believed that the first vision was when the angel Moroni came a visited Joseph in 1823 to tell him where the plates were.

Listen!

Listen!

In 1845, Lucy Mack Smith, Joseph’s Mother, started her autobiography. In her preliminary draft she made no mention about Joseph ever having a first vision of God and Jesus!

None!

She does recount, however that in the “third harvest” (which was in 1823) that the family had discussed the contentions among the various churches one night and that Joseph, later that evening had ‘an angel’ appeared to him and say (quote)

“I perceive that you are enquiring in your mind which church is true. There is not a true church on earth.”

When Lucy Mack Smith’s Biographical Sketches was finally published in 1853, she personally said nothing about her son’s claims to a first vision but only inserted Josephs’ account of it from the newspaper article in the Times and Seasons.

Fawn Brodie, who wrote the book “No Man Knows my History,” said therein:

“If something happened that Spring morning in 1820, it passed totally unnoticed in Joseph’s home town, and apparently did not even fix itself in the minds of members of his own family.”

George Albert Smith, Prophet of the LDS Church said in November of 1863 (JOD Vol 12 page 333-334)

“When Joseph Smith was about 14 or 15 years old, he went humbly before the Lord and inquired of him, and the Lord answered his prayer, and revealed to Joseph, by the ministration of angels, the true condition of the religious world. When the holy angel appeared, Joseph inquired as to which of all these denominations was right and which he should join, and was told they were all wrong.”

In 1834, Oliver Cowdery, who was a scribe to Joseph Smith, published the first Mormon History in the LDS paper *Messenger and Advocate* at Kirkland Ohio.

He began Smith’s story in 1823 – not 1820 - with the boy in his bedroom being visited by the angel Moroni, not God the Father and Jesus Christ.

He wrote that during a time of religious excitement that Smith prayed to know “if a supreme being did exist, to have an assurance that he was accepted of him.”

Cowdery went on to write that Joseph’s prayer was answered on September 21st of 1823 when a “messenger” appeared to him in his bedroom “to deliver a special message, and to witness to him that his sins were forgiven, and that his prayers were heard.”

This is a far different version than the revisionist story Joseph concocted years later that included the notion that “He saw God the Father with a body of flesh and bone and His Son Jesus Christ standing above him in the air.”

LDS Apostle George Albert Smith in 1869

(JOD Vol. 11 page 1-2) said of the first vision: "He sought the Lord by day and by night, and was enlightened by the vision of a holy angel. When this personage appeared to him, of his first inquiry was, "Which of the denominations of Christianity in the vicinity was right."

In 1869, Orson Pratt taught: "By and by and obscure individual, a young man, rose up and, in the midst of all Christendom, proclaimed the startling news that God had sent him an angel to him . . . and four years afterwards was visited by a holy angel again!"

LDS Apostle John Taylor, speaking in 1879, identifies the personages as angels.

"Joseph asked the angel which of the sects was right, the angel merely told him to join none of them."

The evidence seems to indicate that the people alive during the time of Joseph Smith were under the impression that the first vision consisted of angelic visitations – like that of Moroni in 1823, and not of deity in plural or singular form.

But this is only the beginning.

In 1965, BYU graduate student Paul Cheesman published an account of the first vision which was recorded in Joseph Smith's own handwriting.

So there is no question of authenticity, this document has been authenticated by LDS scholars and historians as from the hand of Joseph Smith.

James B. Allen, who later became an LDS church historian said that:

"one of the most significant documents of that period is a handwritten manuscript by Joseph

Smith. It . . . includes the story of the first vision."

Dean L. Jessee, of the Church Historians Office, made these public statements confirming the authenticity of the manuscript in question:

"The 1831-32 history transliterated here contains the "earliest known account of Joseph Smith's first vision."

Now I am begging you to prayerfully ask yourself a question here.

If you had seen God the Father standing above you in a body of flesh and bones and His Son next to Him in a separate Body of flesh and bones, and you spoke with them, asked them questions, and they spoke back to you, how would you write the account of the experience if it happened this way?

Now listen to the earliest, most authentic, account of what Joseph called the first vision and compare it to what the official, retrofitted account says.

Ready?

Joseph Wrote, in 1832, twelve years after the event was said to have occurred:

. . . and Lord heard my cry in the wilderness and while in the attitude of calling upon the Lord in the 16th year of my age a pillar of light above the brightness of the sun at noon day come down from above and rested upon me as I was filled with the spirit of god and the Lord opened the heavens upon me and I saw the Lord and he spake unto me saying Joseph my son thy sins are forgiven thee, go thy way walk in my statutes and keep my commandments behold I am the Lord of glory I was crucified for the world that all those who believe on my name may have eternal life

behold the world lieth in sin at this time and none doeth good no not one they have turned aside from the gospel and keep not my commandments they draw near to me with their lips while their hearts are far from me and my anger is kindling against the inhabitants of the earth to visit them according to this ungodliness and to bring to pass that which hath been spoken of by the mouth of the prophets and apostles behold and lo I come quickly as it was written of me in the cloud clothed in the glory of my father.”

This first version, this version that was written 18 years after the supposed date it was to have occurred, this version that scholars call the most reliable . . .

Says NOTHING about two personages.
Says NOTHING about God the Father.
Says nothing about Him having a body of flesh and bones.
Say nothing about all the churches being an abomination.
Says nothing about “This is my beloved Son, Hear ye Him.”

All of this was developed and added later as Joseph Smith rewrote a history that would cover all of his evolving theological standings.

That would make his theology whole.

It is from the first vision that Mormons believe the absolutely non-biblical stance that God the Father has a body of flesh and bone and this was not even included in the most reliable we have of what Joseph claims to have seen!

There are at least six other versions of the first vision that have been recorded and provided over the years.

All of them are progressive.

All of them build and elaborate on Joseph's growing ideas about the ontology of God.

All of them morph from Him seeing angels, to Him seeing only Jesus, to Him seeing messengers, to Him finally seeing God the Father and the Son in bodies of flesh and bone!

This is evidence of fraud, brothers and sisters!

Fraud of the worst kind.

Want to hear another version?

Dean C. Jessee of the Church Historical department in the Spring of 1971 provided another first vision account, as recorded in the Prophet's 1835-1836 Diary by one Warren Parrish.

The important part of the account reads as follows:

"I called on the Lord in mighty prayer, a pillar of fire appeared above my, it presently rested down upon me, and filled me with joy unspeakable, a personage appeared in the midst of this pillar of flame which was spread all around, and yet nothing consumed, another personage soon appeared like unto the first, he said unto me "thy sins are forgiven thee" he testified unto me that Jesus Christ is the Son of God; and I saw many angels in this vision. I was about 14 years old when I first received this communication."

It is interesting to note that Joseph Smith's 1835 Diary was used as the basis for much of his History of the Church, but this version of the First Vision was omitted.

Let me summarize:

18 years after the first vision was supposed to

have occurred, JS suddenly provided the world some details of the event.

There is no supportive witness to Joseph's claims of having had a first vision in 1820 – not from family, not from personal journals, not from newspapers, not from enemies of Joseph Smith's claims.

Based on a mound of solid evidence, the details regarding his age and the religious environment are spurious.

LDS leaders taught for decades after his death that the first vision was actually a visitation from an angel or angels.

In 1834 the LDS Church magazine printed an account of the beginnings of Mormonism but did not mention Joseph Smith's 1820 vision in the sacred grove. Instead it began with Moroni's visit in 1823.

In 1835, Joseph related the vision in the grove, but only mentions angels appearing, not Jesus or God the Father.

Early newspaper articles which criticized Joseph Smith never mention the 1820 first vision or the idea that God the Father is flesh and bone.

Unlike Gordon B Hinckley, early LDS leaders never used the first vision to illustrate the idea that God and Jesus were separate entities possessing bodies of flesh and blood.

The LDS Church has consistently altered, withheld, and edited information regarding the first vision.

For example

The Deseret News, quoted from Joseph Smith History in 1852 exactly what was written:

"I received the first visitation of angels when I was about fourteen years old . . ."

The History of the Church (Vol 2. page 312) edited the *visitation of angels* part out to where it now reads

"I received my first vision, which was when I was about 14 years old."

If, as Gordon B Hinckley says, the *whole strength of Mormonism rests on the validity of that (first) vision*, I would look to a far less suspect accounting for who God is – like the Bible.

First Vision

~ Part 2 of 2

(March 6, 2007)

Last week we examined the LDS Church's claims that when their founder was a 14 year old boy he had a remarkable vision of God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ.

I read a statement from Gordon B. Hinckley, Prophet, Seer, and Revelator of the LDS church today, which said:

"The whole strength (of the Church) rests on the validity of that (first) vision . . . it either occurred or it did not occur. If it did not, then this work is a fraud. If it did, then it is the most wonderful and important work under the heavens."

We spent last weeks show examining the proofs of Joseph Smith's First Vision as it is taught by Mormonism today.

I made the statement that the First Vision is vital to Mormonism in at least two important ways:

First, the reality or fiction of it speaks to whether Joseph Smith was a really a prophet of God or if he was a religious manipulator.

The evidence we examined last week provided us with a very clear answer to this.

The second reason I said the First Vision is vital to Mormonism is because as a

<p>result of it, Mormonism ultimately and distinctively embraces a totally different idea about the nature or make-up of God.</p> <p>Mormonism today maintains, teaches, and testifies that Joseph Smith saw both God the Father and Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Mormonism says God the Father and Jesus Christ have individual body's of flesh and bone, as tangible as Man's.</p> <p>It says God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son are separate and distinct individuals, that the idea of the Trinity is stupid and is a corrupt lie from misguided men.</p> <p>As a result of the first vision and other teachings, Mormonism says that God the Father was once a Man himself.</p> <p>And Mormonism teaches that there are a multiplicity of God's.</p> <p>Tonight we are going to examine the distinct LDS doctrines that are a result of the First Vision and see if they either support whether the First Vision actually happened or if they further prove that it was simply a fabrication of Joseph Smith's from the start.</p>	
<p>I think there are a few facts that need to be understood before we launch into the second part of our examination.</p>	<p>First, let's look at the historical setting of the times relative to visions</p>

<p>Alexander Campell, writing of the 1824 revival in the State of New York said that . . .</p>	<p>of the times relative to visions.</p> <p>Last week you remember that the earliest account of the first vision – which has been authenticated as having been hand-written by Joseph Smith himself – was composed 18 years after the event was said to take place and that it only mentioned one personage – the Son – as appearing in the grove.</p> <p>I think it is important to remember that the early 1820's were times rife with spiritual excitement and that many people were claiming to have had visions of Jesus Christ in all the excitement.</p> <p>In 1816, when Joseph Smith was only 10 years old, a minister by the name of Elias Smith out of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, wrote a book titled, <i>The Life, Conversion, Preaching, Travels, and Sufferings of Elias Smith</i>.</p> <p>In it he wrote:</p> <p><i>"I went into the woods . . . a light appeared from heaven My mind seemed to rise in the light to the throne of God and the Lamb. The Lamb once slain appeared to my understanding, and while viewing Him I felt such love to Him as I never felt toward anything earthly . . . It is not possible to tell how long I remained in that situation."</i></p>
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"Enthusiasm flourishes . . . This man was regenerated in his sleep by a vision of the night. That man heard a voice in the woods saying, "Thy sins be forgiven thee." A third (man) saw his Savior descending to the tops of the trees at noon day."

Asa Wild had a revelation published in the Wayne Sentinel in 1823 – a newspaper to which the Smith's apparently subscribed - which said:

"It seemed as if my mind . . . was struck motionless, as well as into nothing, before the awful and glorious majesty of the Great Jehovah. He then spake."

(The articles goes on).

"He also told me that every denomination of professing Christians had become extremely corrupt . . ."

Sound familiar?

All of these accounts, and others, predate any mention verbally or in writing of Joseph Smith's first vision by at least ten years!

Joseph Smith handwritten account of his "supposed first vision," was not unlike any of the other reported revelations that were described as having occurred throughout his teen years.

Had Joseph consistently reported a "vision" of just the Savior - as he did in his initial account – he may have gotten away with his story (for a number of reasons which we'll examine in a minute.)

But in typical Joseph Smith fashion –

and a typical LDS fashion which continues even today – Joseph decided to interpolate his accounts over and over again as the years went on, adding and subtracting new and even more outlandish information in order to present a more integrated history and theology, obviously unaware of the coming advent of tenacious historians a world-wide internet.

The most aggressive addition to what has come to be known as his authorized first vision was when he added that he saw “God the Father in a body of flesh and bones” standing in the air with the Son.”

The remainder of my presentation tonight will be evidences which I believe prove Joseph Smith a fraud.

First, let’s see what the Bible says about the nature of God and about “Man seeing Him.”

Jesus said in **John 4:24** “*God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*”

Then when Jesus appeared to his disciples after His resurrection he said:

“Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.”

Jesus Himself, speaking of the Father, said “*God is Spirit.*”

And then speaking of Himself says, “*A spirit hath not flesh and bones as ye*

	<p><i>see me have."</i></p> <p>To believe Joseph's rewritten account of the First Vision that "God has a body of flesh and bone" is to categorically deny what Jesus Himself taught!</p> <p>Think about this, my brothers and sisters!</p> <p>Choose which is more trustworthy – a story that has been revised over and over again OR the Word of the Lord.</p> <p>Secondly, both the Old and New Testament in describing God (the Father) call Him "a consuming fire!"</p> <p>OLD TESTAMENT Deuteronomy 4:24 <i>"For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God."</i></p> <p>NEW TESTAMENT Hebrews 12:28 <i>"for our God is a consuming fire."</i></p> <p>The Word also says that God is not - <u>IS NOT</u> - a man!</p> <p><i>"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent." Numbers 23:19</i></p> <p>What else does the Word say that is in complete conflict with Joseph's revised accounts?</p> <p>The Word says that man cannot even</p>
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	<p>see God (the Father) and live!</p> <p>Exodus 33:20 says <i>"no man can see me, and live."</i></p> <p>1st John 4:12 <i>"No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwells <u>in us</u>, and His love is perfected <u>in us</u>."</i></p> <p>John 1:18 <i>No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.</i></p> <p>Colossians 1:15 says Jesus is in the image of <i>the invisible God!</i></p> <p>and</p> <p>1st Timothy 1:17 also calls God the Father <i>eternal, immortal, <u>invisible</u>, the only wise God . . .</i></p> <p>Speaking of Jesus dwelling with the Father. . .</p> <p>1st Timothy 6:16 says</p> <p><i>Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light <u>which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.</u></i></p> <p>So, according the Word, God is</p> <p>a spirit a consuming fire he is not a man, but is invisible and no man can see Him and live!</p>
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<p>When Joseph Smith finished writing and publishing the Book of Mormon in 1830, he presented a book that described a very different concept of God than what the authorized version of the First Vision presents to the world today.</p> <p>Remember, the LDS Church today presents a First Vision account that was constructed well after the Book of Mormon was published in 1829-1830.</p> <p>But listen to what Joseph has the Book of Mormon saying!</p> <p>Mosiah 15: 1-2, 5</p> <p><i>“And now Abinadi said unto them: I would that ye should understand that God Himself shall come down amoung the Children of men, and shall redeem His people. And because He dwelleth in the flesh he shall be called the Son of God, and having subjected the flesh to the will of the Father, being the Father and the Son, and thus the flesh becoming subject to the spirit, or the Son to the Father, being one God, suffereth</i></p>	<p>Joseph’s revised account that says he saw God and that God is a man in a body of flesh and bone is just an outright fabrication.</p> <p>But Latter-day Saints will cry “the Bible is not reliable! It hasn’t been translated correctly!”</p> <p>Well, let’s turn to the Book of Mormon and see what it says about the nature of God?</p>
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temptation . . ."

In other words, the Book of Mormon prophet Abinadi is teaching that God the Father comes down and becomes the Son!

At the end of the Book of Mormon, in Ether 3:14, there is a theological whopper as it speaks of God being two separate beings but only one personage.

Listen.

"Behold, I am he who was prepared from the foundation of the world to redeem my people. Behold I am Jesus Christ. I am the Father and the Son. In me shall all mankind have light . . . they shall become my sons and my daughters."

Now the *theology* found here in these passages was a form of a second century heresy called modalistic monotheism or Sabellianism which said that God the Father became the Son who then became the Holy Spirit.

I'm not going to address this theological heresy tonight. Let me just say it is false.

But in the context of our discussion about God, the important thing to remember here is that the Book of Mormon taught a very different doctrine about God and His nature because at the time, this is what Joseph believed!

And this is why earliest version of the First Vision mentions only the Son!

Later, as Joseph's thinking changed relative to God and His nature, his accounts of the First Vision changed – again and again and again.

But it was too late to revise the Book of Mormon!

So in an ironic twist of fate dealt only to those who dabble in deception, the Book of Mormon actually refutes the revised First Vision account!

Let's take a little "journey through the facts" together.

In 1830 –

The Book of Mormon teaches that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are one God (2nd Nephi 31:21; Mormon 7:7; Mosiah 15:1-5; 3rd Nephi 11:27)

That the Father and the Son are modalistically the same person (Ether 3:14)

Even the Title page of the BOM reads: *"to the convincing of the Jews and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God, manifesting Himself to all nations."*

Alma, Chapters 18 and 22 teaches that *"God is a spirit."*

And Joseph Smith went to great lengths to even revise the parts of the Bible to stress modalistic monarcheanism. (See Luke 10:22)
" . . . no man knoweth that the Son is

*the Father, and the Father is the Son,
but Him to whom the Son will reveal
it."*

In 1832 . . .

Smith's handwritten account only lists Jesus – one personage – in his vision.

He also dictated what is now Doctrine and Covenants Section 84 which states that "No man can see the face of God without the priesthood."

Guess what? He didn't have what he called "the priesthood" when in his later accounts of the First Vision he claimed to have seen God?

In 1835, Joseph started thinking differently.

His "Lectures on Faith" do not describe God as having a physical body but say "The Father, being a personage of spirit . . . the Son . . . a personage of Tabernacle."

In 1835 . . .

Joseph began to embrace a Binitarian view of God – with two in the Godhead, and the Holy Spirit being "the mind of God."

His first vision accounts did not have God the Father in a physical body and he himself called it "a visitation of angels."

Critics of Joseph Smith, like Alexander Campbell, prior to 1835, attacked him for his claims to authority, modern

revelation, and miracles but never said a word about his claims of seeing God in a body of flesh and bones – why? Because the doctrine or claims to such a vision just weren't there.

BUT ... in 1835 ...

Joseph started studying the Hebrew language. And in it, he learned about the Hebrew word, "Elohim."

Remember, Joseph possessed an uncanny knack for taking even the smallest bit of information and turning it into an entirely new slant on doctrine.

But the Book of Mormon had been published and distributed for at least five years! It said things that were now out of fashion relative to Joseph's new imaginative doctrines!

What could be done?

In 1837 ...

changes relating to the Godhead were made in the second edition of the Book of Mormon:

Read, for example (1st Nephi 11:18, 21, 32 and 1st Nephi 13:40)

In 1842 ...

Joseph Smith then published the first First Vision account that tells of two personages appearing and one saying, "this is my beloved Son, here Him."

Also in 1842, The Book of Abraham is printed which teaches about a “council of Gods.”

In 1843 - *remember now, this is after Joseph started studying some Hebrew -*

He dictated Doctrine and Covenants 130 which teaches that God and the Son have bodies of flesh and bone. (If he had been teaching this since his first vision in 1820, why was a revelation needed 23 years later to explain it.

Remember, all of this is to show that the First Vision, which GBH says is the lynch-pin of the Church, is a fraud.

In 1844 . . .

Joseph gave sermons on the plurality of God’s. (History of the Church Volume 6).

He was killed shortly thereafter.

Who knows, maybe if he was permitted to live he would have somehow come to the conclusion that he was God Himself?

And while I say this with just a tad of sarcasm, it brings me to what I believe is, amidst everything we have already discussed over these two weeks, the most damning evidence against the LDS claims of a First Vision – Joseph Smith’s attitude and reaction.

Let me explain.

<p>What was Isaiah's response when he saw God? What was his attitude?</p> <p><i>Isaiah 6:1 In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. "Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."</i></p> <p>This is decimation of Spirit. This is being poor in spirit.</p> <p>When Daniel saw the Lord in vision he said that his "beauty became corruption."</p> <p><i>Daniel 10:7 And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength</i></p>	<p>One of the tell-tale signs of a person who has had genuine interaction with God is that they have been "decimated" by His presence.</p> <p>In other words, they see themselves for what they are in His presence.</p> <p>In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said:</p> <p><i>Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</i></p> <p>The "poor in Spirit" is another way to say decimated by His presence.</p>
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in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength.

When Peter recognized the Lord by virtue of His filling their nets with fish after a night of empty returns, he fell down at Jesus feet and said

(Luke 5:8) Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

This is the attitude and response of a person who has had an genuine encounter with God.

This is poor in spirit.

Do we read of anything from Joseph Smith that even smacks of broken decimation for having been in the presence of God Almighty?

Do we sense any thing from him that he is poor in spirit?

Does Joseph's attitude, as a man who claims to have actually seen the invisible God, grow in humble admiration of the sovereign Lord or does he, like other self-made religious manipulators, grow in pride and arrogance?

I close tonight with a quote from the man Mormons say saw God – a man they hold in higher esteem than Isaiah, then Daniel, then Peter, or Paul.

His words come from History of the Church, Volume 6 page 408-409.

“Come on! Ye prosecutors! Ye false swearers! All hell, boil over! Ye

<p>burning mountains. roll down your lava! For I will come out on top at last. I have more to boast of than ever any man had. I am the only man that has ever been able to keep a whole church together since the days of Adam. A large majority of the whole have stood by me. Neither Paul, John, Peter, nor Jesus ever did it. I boast that no man ever did such a work as I. The followers of Jesus ran away from Him; but the Latter-day Saints never ran away from me yet . . . when they can get rid of me, the devil will also go.”</p> <p>Latter-day Saints . . . it’s time to get rid of him, because when you do, the devil will go also.</p>	
	<p>Some common questions / accusations we constantly get.</p> <p>First: <i>Why don’t you let all callers through to your show instead of just the easy ones?</i></p> <p>“We do not edit callers . . .” “All are welcome . . .” “The tougher the better . . .”</p> <p>Second: <i>How much are they paying you for your priestcrafts? So much you can’t let it go, right?</i></p> <p>“Look . . .”</p> <p>Third: <i>Why don’t you have any LDS on the show?</i></p> <p>“Welcome – so long as they are official representatives of the Church.”</p>

A Diversionary Respite

(March 13, 2007)

<p>We're going to veer off our path of LDS history tonight for a little respite, of sorts.</p> <p>Things sort of pile up in a ministry like this, clogging the pipes up after a time, and I've found it important to the health of our ministry take a break and respond to the most consistent questions, concerns, and challenges we consistently receive and face.</p> <p>So let's begin by answering the Most Frequently Asked Questions.</p>	
<p>1. <i>What is the purpose of your ministry?</i></p>	<p>To share Jesus with the LDS, hoping it will lead to them personally experiencing spiritual regeneration and that it will ultimately lead to the Church becoming part of the Body of Christ.</p> <p>We seek the seekers, the sinners, the lost, and the disaffected of Mormonism. If stalwarts have their eyes and ears opened, well praise God. But our primary ministry is to those who struggle.</p> <p>Now our detractors say that I am after the ignorant or uninformed because we can beguile them with lies. If bringing people into a genuine regenerative relationship with Jesus is what you call beguiling, then call me a beguiler.</p>

2. *Why do you attack the Church? Jesus never attacked another church?*

Let's put this into perspective.
And try and remember this when you find yourself insulted by my approach and methods:

- a) Mormonism attacked first.
(Remember, the First Vision)
- b) Mormonism continues to attack Christianity today.
(Missionaries - OTC)
- c) Mormonism holds people captive. Mormonism also destroys lives.

Let me explain this:

1. It teaches children, teens, and the unsuspecting (over and over) that it is "*the only true Church.*"
2. You either must conform to its doctrines or you are cast out.
3. When and if you are cast out, you have nowhere to go because you have been taught since you were young that it is the only way.
4. The fallout, the struggle, the mind-tweak is insane - for some.

If you commit what LDS call sin, you are cast out - if not officially, then socially.

If you disagree with them, you are cast out.

If you reveal truths about them -

<p>This story is a great lead-in to the next frequently asked comment. This comment, and many others like it, came to me by email:</p> <p>3. <i>"You (Shawn McCraney) have just gone from one faulty belief system (Mormonism) to another (Christianity). Get off the crutches</i></p>	<p>like Grant Palmer did – you are cast out.</p> <p>If you don't fit with their endless cultural expectations you are cast out.</p> <p>You might say, "Well, that's their right as a group." But here's the rub:</p> <p>They have saturated people with the false rhetorical claims that say there is no other way!</p> <p>That say Christianity is an abomination!</p> <p>That say you must do and agree with all things Mormon in order to live with God the Father!</p> <p>And then they reject you if you are not like them. If you don't play their game.</p> <p>And the result is spiritual carnage in the lives of thousands and thousands of people every year!</p> <p>I "attack" Mormonism because I hate what it does to even strong people who have seen it for what it is.</p>
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<p><i>and start walking on your own.</i></p>	<p>Just last week I met with a group of adult men . . .</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. All returned missionaries.2. All accomplished in the things of this world.3. Intelligent, witty, and kind.4. And all resigned to the fact that Mormon doctrine is a farce.5. Yet at the same time, they each had – for lack of a better word – a certain amount of distain for almost everything religious.6. Each of them – in their own respective way - had been spiritually “raped by the States dominant religion” and were now living with the unconscionable memories of lost time, talent, and wasted dedication. <p>In an effort to illustrate how this happens, imagine that when you are a young child a medical doctor comes to your parents and tells them that if they drink this potion everyday – and if they have you drink the same potion – you will all be cancer free as long as you live.</p> <p>They believe him and he begins to sell them their weekly supply.</p> <p>Because you trust your parents, and it</p>
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	<p>seems to have worked for them, you too believe, and buy and drink the elixir.</p> <p>Then, sometime in your thirties, a dark spot appears on your forehead.</p> <p>Co workers and friends point it out as suspicious, but you know it's not cancer because your whole life you have known you could never get cancer.</p> <p>The blotch gets darker, and you start to wonder, but your parents tell you its nothing because you've done taken all the right steps to prevent cancer and there is no way you could get it.</p> <p>And so you push your suspicions to the back of your mind until the day arrives where the mark has grown far too large to be ignored any longer.</p> <p>You get online and google skin cancer pictures and suddenly up pops ten thousand photographs that look just like the mark on your face!</p> <p>You're sick inside. You're devastated. You're angry. You're hurt.</p> <p>"Maybe it is my fault?" you say in your head. "Maybe that day I only drank half the bottle is the reason I got it?" you wonder. "Maybe the potion didn't work on my because of something I've done wrong."</p> <p>So you decide to go to another doctor and he biopsies the ulcer and calls you back on the phone.</p>
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"I've got good news and bad," he says.

"The bad news is you do have skin cancer."

And at these words you become enraged because you realize you've been duped, tricked, lied to, manipulated, misinformed, and taken.

You've bought and drank this stuff your whole life!

You got your friends to buy it and take it.

You even allowed them to use your testimony about it so they could sell it to others!

And now you find you were DUPED big-time!

The doctor continues. "But here's the good news . . . THE GOOD NEWS . . . There is a very simple cure."

This time, the doctor is telling the truth. But for you it is too late.

Once burned twice shy, right?
You have become jaded.
You have been burned.
And the last thing you will do is trust another doctor with some half baked product to sell.

And so you reject his promise of a cure.

<p><i>We receive a great deal of criticism for either my not responding to the self-appointed apologists who believe it is their duty to defend the Church to me.</i></p> <p>Let me say the following:</p> <p>First, our ministry is to teach those who are seeking to learn those things they have not learned in the LDS Church.</p> <p>It is not to debate.</p> <p>Somehow, many self-appointed LDS apologists have come to the conclusion that they have some special knowledge or information about the truths of Mormonism that</p>	<p>"Just listen," the doctor says, "the expectation for a full and speedy recovery is extremely high in cases of this type of cancer. All you have to do is take this medicine for six weeks."</p> <p>"Nothing doing," you state. I will never trust a doctor or the medical profession again."</p> <p>And you don't.</p> <p>In time, the cancer grows.</p> <p>In time, it spreads across the face, to the bones and the brain.</p> <p>And in time, you die a bitter man because you met and believed a charlatan before you made contact with the Great physician.</p>
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I have never considered before, or that they have a special skill to present Mormonism to me that will prove it true!

I am not interested in hearing about Mormonism from Mormon apologists.

I am not interested in jousting with you.

My lack of interest is ALWAYS interpreted by the self-appointed apologist as proof that I fear their abilities or do not have the ability to defend my faith.

The reality is:

- 1) I've been LDS and I know what you believe.
- 2) We seek those who are looking FOR answers, NOT people who believe they possess all the answers.
- 3) And finally, you have no authority to speak on behalf of your church. In fact, the LDS Church doesn't even recognize you as anyone having a say in the doctrines of the Church, so if your Bishop, and Stake President, and Apostles, and Prophet don't give you the respect and voice you think you deserve, why should I?

Additionally, there have some public complaints about the fact that we will only have "official representatives of the LDS Church" on our show because I am fully aware that no official representative of the LDS Church would

ever come on the show.

I'd like to point out that this is the LDS Churches problem, not mine.

Again, we are not here to argue with Billy Bob Bishop about his special feelings or take on doctrine.

We want what the Church stands for doctrinally and we want it officially.

It is LDS Church policy that nobody has the right to speak for the Church but official representatives.

And since our objective is to speak of the doctrines of the Church and not to the divergent beliefs of individual members, we will stand by this policy unless convinced otherwise.

A Billy Bob Bishop can get up here and say just about anything he wants – and believe it – but it doesn't make him correct.

If you are a self-appointed LDS defender of the faith, who, like all of them, think you have some special skill in how to refute criticism, have the Church set you apart as an official defender of the LDS doctrine and I've got a chair just waiting for you right at my side.

I do not believe the Lord will help Mormon doctrines collapse until the Churches in this nation and state are prepared to assimilate the people into the Body.

Our churches don't need better technology. We don't need bigger

venues. We don't need funnier sermons or more entertaining seeker friendly programs.

We need to teach the Word. Period.

We are in a very disturbing and problematic time in the history of Christianity.

A time when the all-mighty buck, white-washed sermons, and half baked emotionalisms are being used to draw people in.

I am often just frankly embarrassed by what people - who say they follow Jesus - are doing in His name.

Take a look:

(SHOW VIDEO CLIP)

How sick. And disturbing. And what a detriment to bringing simple living people to Him.

Heart of the Matter is about reaching out to searching Latter-day Saints with the desire to bring them to Jesus through spiritual rebirth.

We pray that the Body of Believers in this state will take a stand for true Christianity and represent Him in truth, love, and order.

Pre-Book of Mormon

(March 20, 2007)

We left off two weeks ago – before our respite – with an examination of what the LDS call Joseph Smith’s First Vision.

The official year for the First Vision is 1820, but if you recall, there is a great deal of play regarding the date and what actually occurred in the vision itself.

Though contrary to the Bible, the LDS Church today claims Joseph saw “God the Father in a body of flesh and bones as tangible as Man’s, but his earliest accounts say nothing of the sort.

In light of the evidence, I personally don’t believe there ever was a “first vision” as it is depicted with such certainty by the LDS Church today.

Between the supposed First Vision of 1820 and the visitation of the Angel Moroni in 1823 – we know very little about Joseph Smith’s teen life.

We do know, from Joseph’s own accounts, that he was

“entangled again in the vanities of the world,” but that his sins were not *“great or malignant.”*

LDS historian Bushman notes that *“From time to time he drank too much,”* but we must note that “drinking too much” in those times was common (it was even a crime of the Bible prophet Noah).

Let me also say that I am not critical of Joseph Smith's personal foibles and sins nor do I take the route that they are evidence of him being a religious fraud.

As a Christian I recognize that "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" – the prophets of the Bible included – so I do not think Joseph's personal failures should any more be a part of the evidences against him than Gordon B. Hinckley's shroud of supposed "righteousness" should be evidence that he is legitimate.

It doesn't matter to me that Joseph Jr. liked a drink every now and again, that he had a temper, that he couldn't stand being questioned, or that he often resorted to physical violence when angered.

The proof of a prophet has always been in the prophecies, not in the supposed righteousness of the prophets themselves.

Where I do take exception, however, is when Joseph uses "God" to justify – even sanctify – unbiblical doctrines, practices, and canonical books.

As we proceed through his life it will become more and more evident that this tendency to use "God's name in vane" escalated up until the last months of his life.

On the evening of September 21st Joseph Smith says he was visited by an angel who name was Moroni.

So let's take a minute and give a little history of how and when the Book of Mormon came to be.

As I mentioned on the show about Joseph's magic practices, September 21-22 was a very important night of the year for money diggers (or people who dig for treasure buried in the earth) because it is the Autumnal Equinox and magic practitioners believed it was the best time to communicate with the heavens about the location of buried treasure.

(See D. Michael Quinn's book: Early Mormonism and the Magic World View for some excellent information on this view).

Martin Harris, who helped Joseph Smith finance and translate the Book of Mormon is quoted as having told a Palmyra Minister that Joseph had acted as a seer for a local treasure hunt earlier that evening, but as usual, came home empty handed.

Joseph Smith's mother Lucy recorded that on this special night, the family stayed up late into the evening

"conversing upon the subject of the diversity of Churches that had risen up in the world and the many thousand opinions in existence as to the truths contained in scripture."

Lucy also noted that Joseph seemed withdrawn or in deep contemplation as the family talked.

It is my opinion that this discussion added to Joseph's worries over religion and the families division over it. I think discussions like these played upon his sensitivities to the religious upheaval between his parents.

When Joseph retired he may have prayed for his father's conversion to the truth, or

for God's forgiveness for his sins, or for family reconciliation.

Later Joseph would claim that his mind was preoccupied with thoughts of his personal unworthiness and that he desired a manifestation from God to help him understand his worthiness before Him.

In the midst of whatever he was doing, He said an angel appeared at his bedside, who declared that "his sins were forgiven him" and that God had a special work for him to perform.

The angel told Joseph about a history of ancient inhabitants from America that was written on gold plates and buried in a nearby hill.

Remember that prior to the visit of the Angel Moroni, Joseph Junior had spent time, *and would continue to spend time in the years to come* seeking (through a seer stone) for treasures that were supposedly buried in the earth!

The Book of Mormon claims to be a record of people living in the Americas between 600 B.C.E. and 421 C.E. These people got to the Americas by leaving Jerusalem and crossing the sea in a boat.

Once here, they broke into two great nations, built a thriving civilization, warred, and in the end nearly exterminated each other. Over time those who remained became the American Indian.

One of the last Prophets, a man named Mormon, took the records of these people and compiled them on Golden Plates.

Before we get further into the story of the Book of Mormon, the Hill Cumorah events, the translation, publication, and ultimately the content and construction of the book, let's read what LDS leaders today and yesterday officially say about the Book of Mormon.

James E Faust, in the First Presidency Message of Jan 2004 said:

The Book of Mormon is a keystone (of our religion) because it establishes and ties together eternal principles and precepts, rounding out basic doctrines of salvation. It is the crowning gem in the diadem of our Holy Scriptures.

Ezra Taft Benson said in the First Presidency Message of Jan 1988:

The Book of Mormon was written for us today. God is the author of the book.

From the Church Manual, "Preach My Gospel" in 2005

Joseph Smith was directed by a heavenly messenger named Moroni to a hill where gold plates lain hidden for centuries. These gold plates contained the writings of prophets giving an account of God's dealings with some of the ancient inhabitants of the America's. Joseph

As the story goes, he gave these records to his son Moroni, who buried them in the Hill Cumorah in New York around 421 AD.

And Joseph Smith then claimed that it was this same Moroni who visited him and told him where the plates were buried.

Smith translated the contents of these plates by the power of God.

Joseph Smith himself said in History of the COJCOLDS (4:461) that

*"I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than **any other book.**"*

Joseph Smith also said

"I did translate the Book of Mormon by the gift and power of God, and it is before the world, and all the powers of earth and hell can never rob me of the honor of it."

Is it important to know if this book is true or not?

Can we "*rob Joseph of the honor of it*" or is it truly a record of an ancient civilization written on gold plates and buried in a hill three miles from his home?

If it is not true, would you want to know?
Or are you determined to cling to it because you're certain, in your heart, that it really is what it claims to be?

We going to examine the Book of Mormon over the next four to six weeks?

And I am going to ask YOU - Mormon or non-Mormon, Christian or heretic - to ask yourself one question over and over again.

I'm NOT going to ask you if the book of Mormon is true because it teaches about

Jesus. It most certainly does.
What kind of book that is proposing to have the ability to bring a person closer to God than any book on earth would try and NOT be focused on Jesus?

But because the BOM speaks of Jesus does not make it scripture or true!

Did you hear me?

We had a BYU professor call on our first show and one of his arguments for the validity of the Book of Mormon was that it quantitatively spoke more about Jesus than the Bible!

That's like saying I'm smarter than you because I have a larger library!

We need to know if the book is valid, not whether it wins in a quantitative analysis of what volume uses the name or topic of Jesus most.

Additionally, the question should not be, *"Could Joseph Smith have written this book?"*

This is a side issue that settles and proves nothing! It simply leads us from off the main path and down another dark ally of unanswerable debate!

He couldn't.
He could.
Neener, nener, nener.

Whether you believe he could or couldn't have written the BOM is irrelevant to its being the authentic word of God.
If it is God's Word it doesn't matter if he

could have written it or not, right?
God made a donkey talk, right?

There are a thousand explanations on how the book *could* have come into being. But none of them really matter when it comes to it being “true” or not.

Forget these thoughts and arguments.

Forget the inane and beguiling claim that Joseph wrote the book in 90 or so days.

These are the tactics of a defense attorney looking to spin the issues.

Oh, and another thing, as far as poor arguments go, many Christian apologists insist on making the inane claim that the Book of Mormon can’t be true because it is “additional scripture” which, they claim, is forbidden in the Bible.

This is just another big fat, waste of time!

The Bible doesn’t say this anywhere contextually!

And if God had, indeed, called special men to write a record about the comings and goings of a people from a different continent, who are we to argue it?

If it is God’s Word, it is God’s word. Right?

Now some even go so far as to say, “Well so what? So what if the BOM is a counterfeit. It teaches good things, doesn’t it? It teaches about Jesus, right? “

My response is then, “Well so what

<p>Just because a book is good, it does not mean it is of God. And just because a book teaches truth, does not mean the author is</p>	<p>if the twenty you have in your pocket is counterfeit. It looks like real money, and trades like real money, and works like real money, where is the crime?</p> <p>The crime is in the fact that it dilutes the value of the legitimate currency thereby weakening the established monetary system of our nation.</p> <p>This is important because when you embrace the Book of Mormon as “authentic currency of God,” you are helping to dilute the value of the genuine article.</p> <p>How? Because when you embrace the Book of Mormon, you are also embracing Joseph Smith – and not just his first work – but everything else subsequent to it, which includes an assortment of teachings that are absolutely incompatible with the Word of God.</p> <p>I suppose that to accept the Book of Mormon would be akin to accepting the Quoran as Holy Scripture from God. Before you know it you will have reduced Jesus to a “good prophet” and having your wife donning a birka!</p> <p>But this is just not what the Bible allows.</p> <p>In fact it’s in opposition to it.</p>
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true.

Satan can tell the truth. He quotes scripture all over the Bible. Hitler hated burlesque. Marx loved his wife, and Osama prays!

Wake it up, man.

If a fraud is good, the goodness is used to hook us into something that is evil in the end!

Who would have followed Joseph if he introduced polygamy first?

Who would have joined the LDS Church if it began with the New and Everlasting Covenant as being necessary for salvation?

Bait should always be full of flavor, right?

So how can we tell whether to trust the BOM?

How can we differentiate between the real deal and a counterfeit?

I propose that anyone who really wants to know if the Book of Mormon is genuine should ask themselves this one question:

“Do the contents of the book come from an ancient record that were written on golden plates or not?”

This is the question I hope you will constantly ask yourself over these next four to six weeks as we examine the evidence:

Could the contents of the Book of Mormon have originated from an ancient record written on golden plates or do they

<p>indicate an origin of another source?</p> <p>Why is this important?</p> <p>The official LDS story of the Book of Mormon claims that the content came from an ancient record written on golden plates.</p> <p>They have built an entire religious industry on this tale, with reenactments, graphic illustrations, music, and official statements which support and reinforce this claim.</p> <p>If it becomes evident that the information in the book came from elsewhere, then you can safely discern it a fraud.</p> <p>But if it is reasonable that the contents came from an ancient record written on golden plates, well . . . we'll get to everything that comes along with it in the shows that follow.</p>	<p>But just imagine that someone comes to you with the recently discovered personal journal of Abraham Lincoln.</p> <p>It is filled with accurate information about the life of Lincoln.</p> <p>It speaks of Abraham Lincoln.</p> <p>It preaches like Abraham Lincoln.</p> <p>And the seller naturally wants a hefty price for the mss.</p> <p>So before buying into it you take the time to investigate the contents.</p>
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<p>Now counterfeiting has a few general guidelines that come along with it:</p> <p>First, a counterfeit always comes after the real deal.</p> <p>A counterfeiter of currency would not be very wise to produce a three dollar bill in America, because America doesn't have a three dollar bill!</p>	<p>And after an initial look, things seem to be legitimate.</p> <p>However, you soon discover a few things that cause some concern.</p> <p>First, there are couple of photographs of Lincoln that include items which were not around when he was alive.</p> <p>For instance, on the table of the very authentic room he is standing in is a Frisbee and next to it is a lamp with a 21st Century design.</p> <p>There are also quotations in his writings which are out of date. He is found discussing global warming, the morning after-pill, and motorcycle helmet laws.</p> <p>The question you must ask yourself, when determining on whether this journal is authentic is what?</p> <p>"Does the content of this journal support that it is from the hand of Abraham Lincoln or does the content appear to have come from somewhere else?"</p>
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Get it?

There must be a “feit” for there to be a counterfeit. (and I don’t even know if this is correct English)

Jesus came before Joseph.
The Bible before the Book of Mormon.

Jesus said “it is finished.”
Joseph said “more is required.”

God tore the veil down.
Joseph pinned it back up.

The Bible presents the Good News or the
“Feit.”
The Book of Mormon is the Counterfeit.”

Second, counterfeiters do not seek for originality but instead strive to reproduce the original.

Andrew Jackson must look like Andrew Jackson. Counterfeit cotton paper must feel like authorized US cotton paper.

The closer to the original, the better the counterfeit, right?

Why is the Book of Mormon written in Kings English?

Why?

Why does it quote from the Bible extensively, verbatim, and thematically?

Why?

<p>Third, the best way to detect a counterfeit is not to study the counterfeit itself, but to instead study the real deal!</p> <p>This is true in currency comparisons. This is true in comparatives claims to canonicity.</p> <p>As we dive into the content of the Book of Mormon over these next few weeks, ask yourself:</p> <p>Was that really included on golden plates, or did it come from somewhere else?</p>	
<p>WHILE WAITING . . .</p> <p>While we are waiting for the operators to clear some calls, I had the opportunity to visit my old ward this past Sunday.</p> <p>It was Ward Conference day.</p> <p>I sat in the back and listened intently on what was said, what was taught, what was not mentioned, and what was not.</p> <p>The results were just flat out disturbing.</p> <p>First of all, the theme of the conference was:</p> <p><i>"Our strength lies in our righteousness."</i></p> <p>Taken from a speech given by Gordon B Hinckley in October of 2001.</p> <p>Listen to this? "Our strength lies in our righteousness."</p> <p>Any Bible believing Christian knows – that we have no strength of our own, and we have no righteousness other than Christ!</p>	

What does 1st Corinthians 1:27-31 say?

1st Corinthians 1:27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

A member of the Stake Presidency said:
There is strength and comfort in knowing
we have a prophet today.

The person who closed with prayer said:

We know our safety is in the prophet.

Of course, the talk, and the prayer, closed
in the name of Jesus Christ.

Moroni the Angel

(March 27, 2007)

<p>Complaints from last week:</p> <p>1) From the Christians about my comment that even the Bible has problems.</p>	<p>When you say Bible, what do we mean?</p> <p>Original mss? Codex Vaticanus? Codex Sinaiticus? Vulgate? Wycliffe? Geneva? King James? Revised Version? New American Standard? How about the paraphrased Bible? The NIV?</p> <p>When we say translation, which language are we speaking of?</p> <p>Greek? English? Italian? Spanish? Tagalo? Mandarin?</p> <p>To say that “all Bibles” are without problems is pure foolishness.</p> <p>Inerrancy only pertains to the original mss. But INFALLABILITY is another matter.</p> <p><i>2nd Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.</i></p> <p>So take a copy of every Bible translation that is out there and then get a copy of it</p>
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in every language on earth and hand them out to seeking people.

And then get everyone of the seekers, with their different translations and their different languages and have them sit in a giant auditorium.

And have all of them look up and read Romans 10:10

KING JAMES VERION READS:
Romans 10:10 *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Romans 10:10 (Modern KJV)
For with [the] heart [one] believes unto righteousness, and with [the] mouth [one] confesses unto salvation.

Romans 10:10 (Montgomery NT) *For with the heart man believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Ro 10:10 (New KJV) *For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Ro 10:10 (World English Bible) *For with the heart, one believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Ro 10:10 (Revised Standard Version)
For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

Ro 10:10 (20th Century NT) *For with their hearts men believe and so attain to righteousness, while with their lips they make their Profession of Faith and so*

<p>2) From the LDS side of the fence, last weeks discussion of James 1:5 brought out some ire.</p> <p>“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God who giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him.”</p>	<p><i>find Salvation.</i></p> <p><i>Ro 10:10 (Weymouth NT) For with the heart men believe and obtain righteousness, and with the mouth they make confession and obtain salvation.</i></p> <p><i>Ro 10:10 (Young’s Literal Translation) for with the heart doth [one] believe to righteousness, and with the mouth is confession made to salvation;</i></p> <p><i>Ro 10:10 (American Standard Version) for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.</i></p> <p><i>Ro 10:10 (Bible Basic English) For with the heart man has faith to get righteousness, and with the mouth he says that Jesus is Lord to get salvation.</i></p> <p><i>Ro 10:10 (Darby Trans) For with [the] heart is believed to righteousness; and with [the] mouth confession made to salvation.</i></p> <p>In the end, any reputable version of the Bible, in whatever reputable form it comes, is <u>infallible</u> – meaning it will not fail anyone in leading them to salvation and the essential ways of the Lord.</p> <p>Black and white dogmatism is such an ugly creature, no matter whose backyard it lives in.</p> <p>Michael, and LDS caller originally from</p>
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	<p>India called and defined “wisdom as knowledge applied” in an attempt to justify the LDS use of the verse to discover the truth of the Book of Mormon.</p> <p>The LDS say that people should pray about the Book of Mormon to find out if it is true and use James 1:5 as a biblical justification of this practice.</p> <p>My response is that James 1:5 is about wisdom NOT knowledge, and that they are, relative to God, very different things.</p> <p>If “wisdom is knowledge applied,” then let’s go back and review what we can call knowledge and what we can’t.</p> <p>We cannot say we have knowledge of something that proves to be false. It would not be knowledge – it would be belief.</p> <p>If I say, “I know the car won’t run out of gas” and it does, we did not know it wouldn’t – we merely believed.</p> <p>We can ONLY know what is 100% sure.</p> <p>Even if we say, “I know the sun will rise tomorrow,” we could be wrong. It may not. So we cannot use know in its truest sense this way.</p> <p>A few weeks ago I stated that the only thing we can truly know is that which is 100% true and that Jesus is the only Truth being He Himself said He was the Way, the Truth, and the Life.</p> <p>Tie this into James 1:5 now.</p>
So we left off with Moroni in Joseph Smith’s bedroom on the night of the	

<p>Autumnal Equinox, September 21-22 1823.</p> <p>Before we dive into an examination of the Book of Mormon itself, let me give you a quick summary of some things the LDS rarely teach regarding Moroni.</p> <p>From September 1823 to June of 1829, Moroni would make repeated visits to Joseph Smith as his special “tutor.”</p> <p>In January of 1992, an article ran in the Ensign (and LDS magazine) titled “Joseph Smith’s Tutor.”</p> <p>It reads:</p> <p><i>“It is impossible to determine the number of “interviews” Joseph had with Moroni, but twenty-two visits are often identified.</i></p> <p><i>Working through Joseph Smith, the Lord “brought about the translation and publication of the Book of Mormon in a remarkably short time.</i></p> <p><i>“This was possible because the Lord prepared Joseph in his formative years for his role as the prophet of the Most High. To that end, the Lord had assigned Joseph a personal tutor named Moroni.</i></p> <p>Officially, the Church supports Joseph Smith’s claims that Moroni visited him repeatedly.</p> <p>Let’s examine these visits.</p>	<p>(see table)</p> <p>Like we said last week, six years is not a remarkably short period of time.</p>
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Date

Circumstances

3 VISITS *Joseph's bedroom—Message repeated three times. (Palmyra Township, N.Y.)*

21–22 Sept.
1823 ***Three visits is important to culture of magic because visiting spirits always came in “threes” as proof of their being real.***

“He” (meaning Moroni) told Joseph of the Urim and Thummim,¹ which had been prepared to help in translating the record. (JS—H 1:34–35.)

Moroni also warned Joseph that when the time came to obtain the plates, if he showed them to anyone not approved of the Lord, he would be destroyed.

ALWAYS WONDERED why the angel didn't tell JS to NOT tell anyone about the plates ???? Wouldn't that have made everything easier?

Later . . .

(Manchester Township, N.Y.)

4th VISIT *Exhausted from being up all night, JS was told to go home. Climbing a fence, JS lost all strength and fell to the ground. Moroni appeared again, reciting the same things as the night before and telling him to go tell his father about it.*

22 Sept. 1823

He did, his father believed the tale and told Joseph to do as he was instructed.

Joseph goes to the Hill Cumorah.

Now I have a question: Was the Hill Cumorah called the Hill Cumorah by the State of New York or Manchester Township or was this the name Joseph gave it? Call in if you know the answer to this.

5th VISIT *On the west side of the Hill Cumorah, near the top, Joseph located the large stone he was seeking. When he pried this stone lid away, he saw, inside a box, the sacred items spoken of by Moroni.*

22 Sept. 1823

Okay, where is the box today? The stone box? Wouldn't that be a find? Stone doesn't just crumble away – especially if it

¹ The urim and thummim are mentioned in the Old Testament (Exodus 28:30, Leviticus 8:8, Deuteronomy 33:8, Ezra 2:63, and Nehemiah 7:65). But the urim and thummin of the Old Testament should not be confused with tools Joseph Smith claimed to use as interpreters. Most authorities on the subject believe Joseph used *magic* stones, a hat, and possibly other spiritual relics to translate or receive revelation. These are facts presented plainly.

was around in 1823 and had lasted since 500 C.E.

He tried three times to take them out of the box, but suffered progressively stronger shocks that deprived him of much of his natural strength, until he exclaimed in frustration, "Why can I not obtain this book?"

Being shocked by unseen forces from the earth was also a dimension of folklore magic.

"Because you have not kept the commandments of the Lord," was the answer. For a fifth time within twenty-four hours, Moroni stood before him. Joseph was told to return to the hill one year later,² when Moroni would again meet him and teach him more.

Now why did it have to be one year later to the day? Why? Does this sound like something God would arrange or a rule of folk magic? Think about this stuff.

In folk-lore practices, people like the Smith's either believed or taught others to believe that buried treasures had attending "guardian spirits" that would play all kinds of tricks on seekers who were after their treasures. The shocks, the disappearing plates, the repetitive visits were all a response to this drivel.

Several second hand accounts say that Joseph Smith told people that the Angel Moroni told him that in order to obtain the plates he must return to the same place with his brother Alvin. I am unsure if this is true but offer it as information only.

So every year at Cumorah, instructions given to help Joseph prepare for the Restoration. (Hill Cumorah, N.Y.)

VISIT #6

22 Sept. 1824, 1825, and 1826 *1824: When Joseph went back to Cumorah on 22 September 1824, he once again dislodged the stone lid on the box containing the plates. While extracting the plates, he wondered if there might be anything else of material worth in the box, so he laid the plates on the ground to check.*

² Again, the autumnal equinox, and each visit thereafter. Was one year to the day really necessary to the Lord since the ascension of Jesus Christ? What is the Lord's view of observed days today?

Finding nothing, he replaced the stone lid and concealed evidence that the ground had been disturbed. When he reached for the plates, they were gone. In great alarm, he knelt down “and asked the Lord why the Record had been taken from him.”

*Moroni appeared and reminded him that he had not done as he had been commanded. According to his mother Lucy Mack Smith Joseph had been told in a former revelation, “**not to lay the plates down, or put them for a moment out of his hands, until he got into the house and deposited them in a chest or trunk, having a good lock and key.**” But “contrary to this he had laid them down with the view of securing some fancied or imaginary treasure that remained.” (Lucy Smith, *Biographical Sketches of Joseph Smith the Prophet*, Liverpool, England: S. W. Richards, 1853, pp. 85–86.)*

Again, you will find that treasure from the earth in folklore magic always maintained an ability to “move” or “slip” back into its earthly home. This is why they drew circles in the earth, etc. when they were treasure seeking.

*Moroni instructed Joseph to dislodge the stone cover, and there the Prophet, reassured, saw the plates again. He reached to get them, but “**he was hurled back upon the ground with great violence.**” When he recovered he was alone. Mother Smith reported that Joseph returned home “weeping for grief and disappointment.” His expectations shattered, he was afraid his family would question his story, since all were expecting him to return with the plates.*

Now look at this situation: “If You have seen God and Jesus in a glorious first and were truly visited by an angel on at least six occasions, do you think you would be worried what your family thinks of you when deliverance is delayed? A person pulling wool is worried what a family thinks. A person who has had an genuine interaction with God doesn’t care what anybody thinks.

Joseph told his family of the incidents at Cumorah. His family believed him, and, Mother Smith wrote, “We, therefore, doubled our diligence in prayer and supplication to God, in order that he might be more fully instructed in his duty, and be preserved from all the wiles and machinations of him ‘who lieth in wait to deceive.’ ” (Ibid., p. 86.)

VISITS #7 & 8

1825 and 1826

Each year at the same time, Joseph returned to the hill for further instruction. During his waiting period – of four full

years – Joseph had some time to develop storyline ideas and plot points of his book.

Lucy Mack Smith, in retrospect wrote:

“During our evening conversations, Joseph would occasionally give us some of the most amusing recitals that could be imagined. He would describe the ancient inhabitants of this continent, their dress, mode of traveling, and the animals upon which they rode; their cities, their buildings, with every particular; their mode of warfare; and also their religious worship. This he would do with as much ease, seemingly, as if he had spent his whole life with them.” (Biographical Sketches, p. 85.)

History of the Church tells us (4:537) that Joseph saw other celestial beings in addition to Moroni between 1823 and 1827.

Ivan J. Barratt, a religion professor at BYU, has said that, according to his research, (Ivan J. Barratt, *Young Joseph*, RIC Publishing, 1981, p 71) “Joseph was visited by a host of people from the Book of Mormon while translating the plates, including Nephi, Alma, Mormon and twelve disciples Jesus had chosen during His visit to the America’s.”

Now what would you think if I told you that while JK Rowling was writing the Harry Potter series her characters showed up and taught her all about their world?

You know what you’d think.

In the 1832, 35-35, and 38, there seems to be a calculated effort to downplay the folk-magic aspects of Joseph obtaining the plates.

VISIT #9	Moroni meets Joseph by the Hill Cumorah and says that the time is approaching for the record to be brought forth. He tells Joseph to “be up and doing the things he has been commanded.” (Hill Cumorah, N.Y.)
Winter 1827	

VISIT #10	Joseph receives the plates. (Hill Cumorah, N.Y.)
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22 Sept. 1827	It had been four years. Joseph is now almost twenty-two years old.
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What was Joseph Smith and his father, who was once an

English teacher, doing over these four full years?

We know he got married.

We know he lost a brother to an unexpected death.

I propose – and I admit I may be wrong about this – but I think that Joseph at least had an working outline for the Book of Mormon at this point and a set of mock plates made up and in his possession.

Additional visitations of Moroni occurred after Joseph said he received the plates.

VISIT #11

June–July 1828

Martin Harris served as Joseph's scribe during the translation of the Book of Mormon in early 1828. By June 14, Martin had written 116 pages of manuscript, which Joseph had dictated to him. Martin begged to take the manuscript home to show scoffers in his family.

The Lord twice refused Joseph's requests on Martin's behalf, but the third time granted permission, under some exacting conditions. Martin agreed, but soon broke his solemn trust, and somehow the manuscript was taken from him.

Now what is all this about: The Lord said no, no, well, okay, go ahead? We have Moroni giving explicit instructions to Joseph on getting a lock and key, and returning every year on the year on the same day with exactness, and then Martin Harris wants to impress his wife and the Lord gives into it? What is the deal?

Well, Martin loses the mss (which we'll cover in more depth later) and JS is thrown in despair.

In consequence of the incident, Joseph lost the privilege of translating for a time. The angel Moroni took the Urim and Thummim from him and he was told that it was because he had "suffered the counsel of [his] director to be trampled upon from the beginning." (D&C 3:14–15.)

The plates and the Urim and Thummim were returned to Joseph within a short time so the work could continue. Soooooooo . . .

VISIT #12

July 1828

This happens when Moroni returns the Urim and Thummin.

This next appearance of Moroni is classic and it is often

VISIT #13

not taught or known by the membership at large:

June 1829

Joseph is invited to move over to David Whitmer's from Harmony Pennsylvania to an area in New York and Joseph is afraid to carry the plates with him for fear they will be seen.

So the Angel Moroni shows up and acts as a transporting agent for him, taking the plates from one place and moving them to another.

When I first read this a few years ago, I imagined that the Angel Moroni did this by dissolving them into particulates, transferring them, and then reforming them in another place. Not so.

According to witnesses, the poor guy had to haul them cross country by hand.

According to something called The Historical Record (edited by one Andrew Jenson, vol. 6, May 1887, pp. 207–9.)

David Whitmer told Elder Joseph F. Smith of the Quorum of the Twelve about his wagon trip to Fayette with Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery. As they traveled across a section of prairie, they came upon a man walking along the road, carrying something that was obviously heavy in a knapsack on his back. Invited to ride, the man replied, "No, I am going to Cumorah." Puzzled, David looked around inquiringly, but when he turned again, the man was gone.

David demanded of Joseph: " 'What does it mean?' Joseph informed him that the man was Moroni, and that the bundle on his back contained plates which Joseph had delivered to him before they departed from Harmony, Susquehanna County, and that he was taking them for safety, and would return them when he (Joseph) reached father Whitmer's home."

Aside from the myriad of questions this story produces, I would like to point out something you may not have considered:

The LDS – especially FARMS and FAIRS and self-appointed defenders of the faith – tend to mock sources that are quotes that are critical of the Church but they have no problem using and quoting from any resource around that is complimentary.

If Joseph Stalin himself ever said anything complimentary of the Church, the quote would be used and defended, but if

even a competent LDS scholar like BH Roberts, Southerton, or Grant Palmer critique anything, they are castigated and hung out to dry.

- VISIT #14 Joseph has the plates once again in his possession in Fayette Township.
June 1829 Moroni meets Joseph in the garden and gives the plates to him. (Fayette Township, N.Y.)
- VISIT #15 Joseph finishes the translation; Moroni takes the record. (Fayette Township, N.Y.)
June 1829
- VISIT #16 Oliver, David Whitmer, and Joseph Smith (witnesses) see Moroni, who shows them the plates. (Fayette Township)
June 1829
- VISIT #17 Martin Harris and Joseph Smith (witnesses) see Moroni and the plates. (Fayette Township, N.Y.)
June 1829
- VISIT #18 Moroni gives the plates to Joseph, and Joseph shows them to the Eight Witnesses. Moroni then calls for the plates and keeps them. (Manchester, N.Y.)
June 1829

Which we will be speaking of later.

This concludes a brief examination of the role Joseph Smith said “the Angel Moroni” who now tops the steeple of the LDS temples across the world, played in writing the Book of Mormon.

Now, after hearing all this, this mystical, magic-filled rehearsal, let me ask you to close your eyes and allow yourself to think:

Think about Jerusalem 2000 years ago. Dusty roads, a cool spring day, bright sunlight.

You hear the LORD speaking to Nicodemus in the night:

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should

<p>not perish, but have everlasting life.”</p> <p>A trial is going on. And standing before a crowd of roaring angry people is Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Head bowed.</p> <p>He is taken out and scourged.</p> <p>A heavy cross is loaded on His back.</p> <p>The streets are teeming with indifferent and attacking scoffers.</p> <p>He lays Himself out upon the cross and thick rusty nails are pounded through his hands and feet.</p> <p>We hear His suffering. He says, it is finished.</p> <p>The sky is dark and the earth shakes.</p> <p>Watch the temple veil tear in two.</p> <p>He had given His life for us.</p> <p>See the empty tomb. See the road to Emmaus. See the final ascension.</p> <p>Finally, recall the Words of Paul to those who have lost sight of Jesus and His Gospel, when he wrote:</p> <p>Galatians 1:6-9 “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ (and) unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another (Gospel); (except) there are some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached</p>	
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unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”	
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Book of Mormon

~ Part 2 of 5

(April 3, 2007)

Listen, lately on our BLOG and in other forms of communications we are getting hit with comments like:

“Shawn attacks the BOM, but look at the mistakes and problems with the Bible! Why does he think he can attack one book but then place his faith and trust in another?”

I'd like to comment on this for just a second.

First, those who attempt to make ANY sort of comparison between the evidences for the Bible and the evidences for the Book of Mormon are simply asinine!

The Bible today is supported archeologically, linguistically, genetically, and culturally.

There are viable manuscript evidences for the Bible!

There are places spoken of in the Bible you can visit!

There are entire people groups and religious cultures – Christian, Jewish, Babylonian, and Islamic – that verify Biblical presentations and claims.

There are hundreds and hundreds of prophetic claims in the Bible that have been fulfilled.

To compare the validity and/or the evidences of the Book of Mormon to the Bible is like comparing an asthmatic kazoo player with the New York Philharmonic!

<p>Don't try and demean the Bible as a means of justifying the Book of Mormon.</p>	<p>Last week I inadvertently skipped a page of notes last week regarding the Angel Moroni visits and want the mention an event that is not often known but is certainly part of the Official Church Record.</p>
<p>In the final phase of translating the plates, Joseph was invited to move from Harmony Pennsylvania to an area in New York and join the Whitmer family. But Joseph was afraid to carry the plates with him in the wagon for fear they would be overtaken.</p> <p>So the Angel Moroni appears – 13th visit – and acts as a transporting agent for the plates, taking them from Pennsylvania to New York!</p> <p>When I first read this a few years ago, I imagined that the Angel Moroni did this by dissolving the plates into particulates, beaming them over to New York, and then reforming them there. Not so.</p> <p>According to witnesses, the poor Angel hauled them cross country on foot.</p> <p>According to something called The Historical Record (edited by one Andrew Jenson, vol. 6, May 1887, pp. 207–9.) which the CHURCH uses to tell the story, it reads:</p> <p>David Whitmer described to Joseph F. Smith of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles the wagon trip he took from Pennsylvania to New York with Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery.</p> <p>As they traveled across a section of prairie, they came upon a man walking</p>	

<p>along the road, carrying something that was obviously heavy in a knapsack on his back.</p> <p>When asked if he would like a ride, the man replied, “No, I am going to Cumorah.”</p> <p>Puzzled, David Whitmer looked at the other men inquiringly, but when he turned back, the man with the knapsack was gone.</p> <p>David turned to Joseph Smith and asked:</p> <p>“ ‘What does it mean?’ “</p> <p>Joseph informed him that the man was Moroni, and that the bundle on his back contained the plates which Joseph had delivered to him before they departed from Harmony, Pennsylvania.</p> <p>He also told him that the angel was taking the plates for safety, and would return them when Joseph arrived at the Whitmer’s home.”</p> <p>I thought this was too important a part of the Moroni saga to leave on the cutting room floor.</p> <p>Add it to the collection.</p>	
	<p>Two weeks ago, I visited an LDS ward with my wife. It was their ward Conference.</p> <p>We sat through a hour and a half of, well, meeting.</p> <p>Lots of administration, which is what you would expect at a conference, I suppose.</p> <p>But then the talks began.</p> <p>The ward conference theme was</p>

taken from a talk GBH gave in October 1991.

“Our safety lies in the virtue of our lives. Our strength lies in our righteousness.”

WOW.
WHOA.

People are always asking what are the differences between Mormonism and Christianity.

This Ward Conference theme pretty much sums it up.

To a Christian, our safety lies in the virtue of Jesus Christ, not in our lives. A Christian’s strength lies in Him.

Consider . . .

1st Corinthians 3:18-21

Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

20 And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.

21 Therefore let no man glory in men.

We turn to . . .

1st Corinthians 1:27

But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are

	<p><i>mighty; 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.</i></p> <p><i>A female ward member was asked to close the meeting with prayer.</i></p> <p><i>I kid you not, this is what she said:</i></p> <p><i>“ . . . and we know, Heavenly Father, that we have our safety in the prophet Gordon B. Hinckley”</i></p> <p><i>It broke my heart.</i></p>
<p>Tonight we begin our examination of the content of the Book of Mormon.</p> <p>Tonight, you should begin to ask yourself:</p> <p>“Was this information really part of an ancient record written on gold plates and buried in a hill?”</p> <p>I propose that the Book of Mormon is, at it’s very best, a grand amalgamation NOT limited to, but certainly taken from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political themes found in early American republicanism. • autobiographical elements from Joseph Smith’s personal experience and family life. • an assortment of after-the-fact historical events. • a variety of popular religious issues debated and discussed in Joseph Smith’s early life. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • anti-Unitarian and anti-Trinitarian doctrinal refutations. • Anti-Mason rhetorical devices. • The Bible, used and quoted extensively; • Apocraphal writings. • An assortment of 19th Century geographical locations. • And various literary elements available to the Smith's at the time. 	<p>Over the next several weeks, I am going to try and paint a picture for you – from scratch.</p> <p>Tonight we are going to make the frame and stretch the canvas for our picture by examining early American Republican ideals as an underlying motif for many themes Joseph used throughout the Book of Mormon.</p> <p>This will not be the most exciting information we've delivered, but it is certainly evidence that Joseph Jr. incorporated events from his day into a record that was supposed to be ancient.</p> <p>Remember, if he did, the record translation story is a fraud.</p>
<p>Many political historians have seen Aristotle as the founder of "republican thought."</p> <p>Machiavelli, James Harrington and other thinkers of the English Revolution helped shape Aristotle's thoughts into a more</p>	

applicable working model.

By the time the American Revolutionaries took Aristotle's "Republican" ideals and applied them, they saw it as the "*political struggle between the forces of virtue and corruption.*"

American political theorists believed that a republic was the best form of government, but they also knew it was a very fragile system and quite difficult to keep healthy.

Where kingships and monarchies could be very evil, as evidenced by the actions of King George, they seemed to have provided an easier method for managing the "unruly masses."

After the American Revolution (ending in 1776) a tenuous, and possibly at times frightening, newcomer called democracy stood upon our verdant shores.

Joseph Smith was born just 30 years later.

It became apparent very quickly that the greatest enemies to the free republic were anarchy and tyranny.

Kenneth Winn, professor at Washington University and author of an outstanding book called, *Exiles in a Land of Liberty*, writes that:

"Anarchy reared its head when the rabble, (generally men with no stake in society, or "designing men") fractured the body politic into unrestrained forces."

In anarchy, the unruly masses often turned to a "visionary knights who would promise the world" believing he could provide peace while often forgetting the risk they ran of chaining themselves, once again, to a potential despot.

Political, social, or religious despots were certainly viewed as antithetical to democracy.

This is one of the reasons Joseph Smith Junior and his followers were persecuted. Rightly or wrongly, they viewed Joseph as tyrannical.

I'm sure the uniforms, white horse, and militias didn't help.

Ironically, Joseph saw Mormonism as a way to save the republic from the moral "anarchy" he believed the country was beginning to embrace.

Anything in early America that smacked of anarchy was considered anathema and a threat to the stability and liberty of the republic.

Therefore, a variety of social "safeguards" and attitudes were used and promoted by early Americans as a means of protecting the republic from the deleterious effects of anarchy and tyranny.

These "republican themes," many of which originated through the Puritans, were considered essential to controlling "chaos and decline in early America."

Interestingly enough, these themes also happened to conveniently find a place in the pages of the Book of Mormon.

One of these themes was an agrarian approach to living.

Just as early Americans long

extolled the farmer as the epitome of industriousness, independence, and civic virtue, so does the Book of Mormon.

When the great Nephi prophet Alma led people out from under the control of the poster child for “anti-republican ideals” (King Noah), the Book of Mormon says that the people

“pitched their tents, and began to till the ground, and began to build buildings, etc.; yea they were industrious, and did labor exceedingly.”

Even when the savage, nomadic, and anarchist Lamanites converted to the ways of the industrious, Joseph Smith writes that they too began “tilling the ground, raising all manner of grain, and flocks and herds of every kind.”

In other words, when the wild and ferocious Indians of the Book of Mormon turned from anarchy, Joseph turned their hands to the epitome of 19th century virtue - farming.

Simply being “industrious” was not enough to merit respect in early America.

Traditionally, early American theorists feared that certain occupations – like merchants and lawyers – might not be totally committed to republicanism because they played to luxury, lived off the troubles of others, and did not have their hands in the soil.

To truly support the early American republican ideal of civic respectability, one had to work with his hands.

Few did this more than farmers.

In the Book of Mormon, these same common ideals were applied to the “righteous Nephites” who, whether a leader or commoner, “tilled the earth.”

One popular Nephite hero, the “goodly King Benjamin,” who spent his days “serving others,” embodies this early American ideal. So much so that Joseph has him say in the Book of Mormon:

“I, myself, have labored with my own hands, that I might serve you, that you should not be laden with taxes.”

Joseph described Mosiah, King Benjamin’s son, in terms of the republican ideal by saying he:

“did cause his people to till the earth. And he also, himself did till the earth, that thereby he might not be burdensome to his people.”

Even the religious leaders and prophets in the BOM, like Alma, fit the common republican model when he tells his priests

“not to depend on people for their support, but to labor with their own hands.”

What you often find in the Book of Mormon are “good” characters being the embodiment of all that

	<p>early American Republicans thought was good, and the “evil” characters representing all that early Americans found reprehensible and dangerous to the republic.</p> <p>Every good Nephite, or converted Lamanite, was not poor, but a self-reliant, industrious, farmer who disdained self-seeking luxury at the expense of others but is sensitive to the needs of the community and poor.</p> <p>Every “bad Lamanite” or fallen Nephite was the epitome of all the republic feared: vice, avarice, laziness, tyrannical, and anarchistic.</p> <p>There are dozens of Book of Mormon references that attack merchants and lawyers for their contribution to the decay of the nation, and a number of other passages that elevate farmers and craftsmen by extolling their agrarian virtue over everything else.</p> <p>I am not saying these characterizations were necessarily wrong. I am only saying they did not come from gold plates.</p> <p>As if to forget he was translating from ancient records, Joseph Smith’s personal invective against attorneys seemed to slip into the text when he writes that the “sole object of these lawyers was to get gain.”</p> <p>The Smith’s rarely had any good experiences with attorneys. The</p>
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<p>Hand in hand with the virtue of aggressive industriousness was the republican attitude toward wealth, and its step-sister, luxury.</p> <p>Classical theorists of early America feared that the republican virtues of simplicity, economy, and industry would amount to large fortunes and ultimately, luxury.</p> <p>Luxury was an enemy to the republic because anyone who desired “more than what he or she needed” might be tempted to sell their political liberties in order to retain and maintain a personal luxurious standard of living.</p> <p>Republican idealists sincerely believed that whenever the public good took a backseat to private interest, the republic was at risk.</p> <p>Luxury – any form of it – was considered the truest indicator that private desire was taking over public good, and that the republic was headed for disaster.</p> <p>In typical republican prose found throughout the Book of Mormon, Smith writes:</p> <p><i>“It came to pass in the eighth year of the reign of Judges, that the people of the church began to wax proud, because of their exceeding riches, and their fine silks, and their fine twined linen, and because of their many flocks and herds, and their gold, and their silver, and all manner of precious things, which they had obtained by their industry, and in all those things they were lifted up in the pride of their eyes, for they began to wear costly apparel.”</i></p>	<p>bias comes through loud and clear.</p>
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When you consider the dire economic straights of the Smith family, which, as we've noted, resulted in a number of difficult circumstances, like very poor apparel, the origins of passages such as this become very apparent.

Because of time, I won't attempt to examine the political themes present in the Book of Mormon relative to monarchy, kingship, and judges, but the similarities are plentiful and astounding.

Neither will I describe and compare Joseph Smith's the characteristics Smith gives the books political heroes like Captain Moroni.

I am, however, going to spend these last few minutes discussing the republics fear of "internal subversion" and how Joseph included these "secret combinations" in the Book of Mormon.

In September of 1826, before Joseph is said to have obtained the plates (or, in my opinion, during the time he was formulating his outline for the Book of Mormon) an event occurred which had national implications and gave Smith more grist for the mill.

A man named William Morgan, an ex-Mason, was kidnapped not too far from Joseph's home, and never seen again.

Morgan was an ex-Mason who had just completed writing an expose on the secrets of Freemasonry and it was believed that the Masons got a hold of him and killed him for his soon to be released revelations.

(BY THE WAY: William Morgan's widow,

Lucinda Pendleton, became one of Joseph Smith's first polygamous wives).

Over the next three years, while Joseph was writing the Book of Mormon, the politically powerful and evasive Masonic movement faced a huge public outcry which was heard across the land as it connived and strived to exonerate itself in the murder of Morgan.

This initiated an anti-Masonry movement that for all intents and purposes killed the popularity of Masonry then – and even to this day.

Why the huge outcry?

Early Americans believed that secret societies endangered the republic because secret oaths and loyalty to Masonry had subversively replaced out in the open loyalty to the republic.

Secret societies led to insidious manipulations, potential anarchy and ultimate tyranny.

Masonry was also seen as a secret, organized form of organized tyranny and this could not, would not, be tolerated in a democratic republic.

Like other contemporary themes, as anti-Masonic fervor swept through the established nation and community of Joseph, it also became a theme in the Book of Mormon.

In the Book of Mormon, Joseph named the Masons the "Gadianton Robbers."

The following description he gives of them could easily pass for a contemporary republican critique of Freemasonry.

Listen to the Masonic references!

Okay, when the Nephites joined the Gadianton robbers, Joseph writes in the Book of Mormon that they

“did enter into their covenants, and their oaths, that they would protect and preserve one another, in whatsoever difficult circumstances they should be placed in, that they should not suffer for their murders, and their plunderings, and their stealings. And it came to pass that they did have their signs, yea their secret signs, and their secret words; and this that they might distinguish a brother who has entered into the covenant, that whatsoever wickedness his brother should do, he should not be injured by his brother, not by those who belong to his band, who had taken this covenant; and thus they might murder, and plunder, and steal, and commit whoredoms, and all manner of wickedness, contrary to the laws of their country, and also the Laws of their God; and whosoever of those who belonged to their band, should reveal unto the world of their wickedness and abominations, should be tried, not according to the laws of their country, but according to the laws of their wickedness.”

The irony of this is that in not too many years, Joseph would actually embrace much of Freemasonry, becoming a Mason himself, and actually adopting many secret Masonic forms into the religion called Mormonism today!

One of the greatest political fears American's had was that this secret, upstart group would somehow undermine and take over republican society. That democracy would be replaced by special

<p>interest group wielding the power.</p> <p>America reacted to the Masons secret murders and manipulations out of pure, unadulterated fear.</p> <p>As a warning to the nation, Joseph has the fictionalized Gadianton robbers taking over the “sole management of the Government” among the Nephite’s, and by the end of the book, this same “secret combination” would contribute greatly to the Nephite’s ultimate demise.</p>	<p>I don’t pretend that the information tonight it is conclusive of Joseph having committed literary fraud.</p> <p>It certainly adds dimension to what the LDS call the “Most Correct Book” on the face of the earth.</p> <p>And it should certainly give pause to the question each of us should ask ourselves as we examine the LDS claims of the Book:</p> <p>“Did this information come from an ancient record written on golden plates, or did it come from some other source?”</p>
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Book of Mormon

~ Part 3 of 5

(April 10, 2007)

<p>And thanks, R and C for the submission!</p> <p>Hey, if you come across some interesting bit of information like this, please don't hesitate to forward it to us.</p>	<p>Regarding sin, it reads: "For serious sins, we will need the help of a Bishop or another appropriate priesthood leader to COMPLETE OUR REPENTANCE. We THEN must let the Savior judge whether WE OR HE must make final payment for the sin."</p> <p>This hogwash makes me want to retch right here on television. Now come on, President Gordon B Hinckley, renounce this stuff. Jesus is the only way. He paid for it ALL. You are in a position to stop this garbage and I, along with millions of others, are asking you to do it.</p> <p>Remove the yoke from your people, Gordon. Remove the yoke and set them free.</p>
<p>We are in the midst of examining the contents of the Book of Mormon.</p> <p>You know, I want to make a statement here that might be considered radical by many of my Christian brothers and sisters.</p> <p>But taken in context and in light of the facts I am certain that my statement will stand up to scrutiny.</p> <p>In and of itself – (remember that statement, "in and of itself) the Book of Mormon is a fine Christian testament – similar to Pilgrim' Progress or a well written gospel tract.</p>	

Can the book of Mormon lead a person to Jesus? I would say it certainly can, just as a sound Bible tract can help people accept Him as their Lord and Savior.

Does the Book of Mormon teach truth?

Unquestionably. Listen, for the most part, it teaches Christian truths straight from a 19th century podium!

Whoa! You might say. Then why are you attacking it?

From my perspective, the Book of Mormon has some VERY big - "yeah, even insurmountable problems" that must be addressed if they want to retain their membership and/or ever be accepted into the Body of Christ.

First, though it mostly teaches basic Christian truths, the story of its origins is fraudulent and therefore a work of deception.

Had Joseph Smith presented the book as a work of Christian fiction aimed at teaching Christian truths to a religious America, it might be accepted today, and used like the Screwtape Letters, Pilgrims Progress, or maybe even the Lord of the Rings writings . . .

You know, as Christian based fiction.

But noooooooooo, he had to go and play the con. And Mormonism

<p>Last week we discussed some early American political themes that Joseph included in the Book of Mormon.</p> <p>These included a variety of frontier ideals that helped ward off enemies like anarchy and tyranny from the new republic.</p>	<p>today continues to perpetuate the con to any and all who will listen.</p> <p>The fruit that springs from the soil of fraud is in the end deadly and the Book of Mormon is no exception.</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>When people buy into the fraudulent story of its origins, they almost always buy into the additional claims of the storyteller.</p> <p>And the storyteller has in the end led millions of people away with a host of unbiblical teachings that came later.</p> <p>Good counterfeit systems are not easily detected or seen.</p> <p>Great counterfeits are often close to being impenetrable.</p> <p>Let's take a minute more and examine further the content and constructs of the Book of Mormon, all the while asking ourselves:</p> <p>Could this information have come from an ancient record written on gold plates, or did it come from somewhere else.</p> <p>As you see the abundance of evidence that the information came from somewhere else, you can see that its "origins story" is a lie.</p> <p>And if that it is a lie, then it's time to rethink your allegiance to</p>
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<p>Such ideals included a personal dedication to industriousness, an agrarian approach to labor, avoiding luxury, which included wearing fine apparel, and a rejection of secret combinations or groups like the Masons, (which Smith so creatively renamed “the Gadian-ton” robbers in the text.)</p>	<p>Mormonism as it currently stands.</p>
<p>It’s important to realize that Joseph Smith’s Book of Mormon was in many ways a book of protest.</p> <p>I can’t help but appreciate his efforts in this regard.</p> <p>Additionally, and like the parent of a teen headed for trouble, the Book of Mormon spoke an adolescent America.</p> <p>It was a warning, a call for action, and a promise for salvation if the nation would repent and stay true to its ideals.</p> <p>If luxury, indolence, fine apparel and living off the efforts of others was indicative of a <i>nation</i> pushing toward a state of anarchy, then few organized <i>religions</i> more perfectly represented all that was wrong in the nation than Catholicism.</p> <p>Winn said:</p> <p><i>“If lusting after gain represented an occupational hazard for lawyers and merchants and threatened the harmony of the Nephite society, “priestcraft” menaced the Nephites with “their entire destruction” as the Book of Mormon states.”</i></p> <p>Joseph provided a perfect prototype for priestcraft in the presentation of a Book of Mormon character named King Noah.</p>	

<p>Where other Nephite leaders typically fit the hard-working, republican model of virtue, King Noah was the embodiment of Corruption.</p> <p>No other Book of Mormon character more readily represents ALL that early American patriots loathed:</p> <p>Smith says that King Noah “<i>walked after the desires of his own heart</i>” and “<i>passed his time in riotous living with his wives and concubines</i>” and surrounded himself with wicked priests who possessed similar</p>	<p>As a side, in my opinion, one way to determine the voice and ability of an author is to look at the complexity of his or her characters.</p> <p>Real life is complex. Real characters are complex. King David – full of ability, full of failure – was complex. A man after God’s own heart, and adulterer and murderer.</p> <p>Real life people are as rich and varied as a grand tapestry.</p> <p>Immature writers – often in an effort to be didactic and incessantly prove their point, present very wooden characters in their writings.</p> <p>The more single dimensional, the less real AND the more the maturity level of the writer is revealed.</p> <p>The Book of Mormon is full of archetypical single dimensional characterizations. And King Noah is a perfect example of this.</p> <p>So is Captain Moroni, Nephi, Korihor, and the 2000 stripping warriors.</p> <p>Okay.</p>
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penchants for luxurious hedonism.

According to the Book of Mormon, King Noah and his priest were “*supported in their laziness, and in their idolatry, and in their whoredom by the taxes which King Noah had put upon his people: thus did the people labor exceedingly to support iniquity.*”

What would be the result of such indolent tyranny?

If allowed to continue the savage and antinomian Lamanites would come in and overtake them. Maybe they would place the once righteous Nephites in bondage and strip them of their freedoms and burden them with taxes.

Guess what? These were the very same fears the early settlers and frontiersmen had relative to the establishment of their New World.

If things weren't done right, the British could return and laden America with monarchy and taxes or the savage Indians Would enter the picture and reek havoc upon their tranquility.

Joseph took two of the greatest fears of early American republicanism – anarchy and tyranny – and gave them a face in the form of the lawless Lamanites and the tyrannical King Noah – all as a means to “warn” that nation of its pending doom should it not repent.

But he didn't stop there.

He also used the book to summarize a history of Christendom, its apparent collapse (which illustrates the condition of how Joseph saw organized religion in his

day) and to point the finger of blame at those responsible for its collapse – the Catholics.

In a view popular among the protestants of Joseph's time, the Book of Mormon teaches that the Devil took over the simple church Jesus established and founded the "great and abominable Church" (which Bruce R McConkie, LDS Apostle once said was the Catholic Church.)

In the Book of Mormon, the Pope and his toadies represented the same anti-republican values as King Noah: they were whoremongers, were greedy-green for wealth, they lived off the labors of the poor, and they persecuted and killed true followers of the Jesus.

According to Joseph, this corrupted religious institution also saw fit to remove the "plain and precious" things from the Bible which succeeded in enslaving all of Europe - if not the entire world - in spiritual darkness.

To some extent, I'm not sure I disagree with these assumptions.

The differences, however, lie in what the Bible says about corruption in the Church and what the Bible says the outcome would be.

Like most start-up religions of the

	<p>19th century, Mormonism decided to write its own solutions to the story, all the while forgetting that God has been in charge from the start.</p> <p>The Bible is very clear in telling us that the Church, shortly after it was established by Jesus, would fall into difficulty.</p> <p>Revelation three summarizes this decay quite well.</p> <p>But the Bible never says that the Church would be “lost,” or “stopped,” or “corrupted to the point that Satan prevails.”</p> <p>Why would there need to be a restoration of the Gospel Jesus purposefully established in the meridian of time?</p> <p>Did the gates of hell prevail against His Church when Jesus said t couldn’t?</p> <p>Was every single believer corrupted on earth to the point that the Gospel was lost in its entirety?</p> <p>The Church at Sardis is indicative that the answer is No! No! There has always been believers, a remnant of true believers, in every dispensation.</p> <p>The Day of Pentecost ensured each of us that Jesus was true to His promises and He did not ever leave us alone!</p>
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	<p>But to Joseph, there was another answer. And it fit in perfectly with the “restorationist themes” that were popular in his time.</p> <p>To Joseph’s grandparents, parents, and community, God was one step ahead of the “great and abominable church’s” plan to destroy truth because He set aside a “<i>land choice above all others</i>” (another common belief of early and present Americans), inhabited it with the offspring of a family of wandering Jews (another borrowed theme we’ll discuss later) and inspired a nice Italian fellow named Columbus to find it.</p> <p>Then God led people out from other spiritually blighted countries to come to this land (<i>another early American/Puritan thought</i>) and told them (in the Book of Mormon) that if they served Him they would never be brought into captivity or serve under a Monarch (like King George) (<i>another very typical protestant American thought</i>).</p> <p>All of these things were not only strongly believed by early Americans, but they may have even been true!</p> <p>Mormonism did not discover, neither does it own, the idea that God established America as a place of religious freedom.</p> <p>It merely adopted and amplified it.</p> <p>But then Joseph takes it all to</p>
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<p>In 2nd Nephi chapter three, Joseph Smith has a Book of Mormon character named Lehi give his youngest son a blessing and Lehi somehow quotes the biblical Joseph (the one sold into Egypt) as having said that a “choice seer” would rise up in the last days to help guide the people through dark times.</p> <p>Then he somehow has Joseph (who was sold into Egypt) say that the choice Seer’s name:</p> <p><i>“shall be called after me, and it shall be after the name of his father”</i> speaking of Joseph Smith Junior, who shared the same name as his father Joseph Smith Sr.!</p> <p>Because the Catholic church removed many precious things from the Bible, causing <i>“an exceeding great many to stumble”</i> thereby <i>“placing them in the power of Satan,”</i> God would raise a choice seer up – Joseph Smith – who would restore the many plain and precious lost from the Bible by placing them into the Book of Mormon!</p> <p>But here is one of the most revealing things about all of this:</p> <p>The Book of Mormon reveals very very little that is not included in the Bible!</p> <p>What “doctrinal clarifications” or “plain and precious truths” did the Catholic church remove from the Bible that the Book of Mormon clarifies and supplies to the eyes of searching people?</p> <p>NOTHING that was not part of the</p>	<p>another level. He does what all confidence men do – he adds something to an existing set of circumstances that is almost too unbelievable not be believed!</p> <p>(His chutzpah that still amazes me to this day)</p> <p>What does he do?</p> <p>He includes his <i>own name</i> in the Book of Mormon as the person the Lord is going to use in the <i>“last days”</i> to restore the <i>“plain and precious truths”</i> to the world which the Catholic Church had so insidiously removed from the Bible!</p> <p>Think about this!</p>
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religious dialogue in America at that time.

Listen! Listen!

Next week we are doing to discuss what the religious environment was like around Joseph and how he borrowed extensively from its themes and concerns.

But know this:

The Book of Mormon does not teach anything that makes Mormonism what it is today.

This is vital to understand because in my opinion, the LDS Church uses the Book of Mormon as bait.

It's like an introductory drug.

It promotes and teaches good values, with a pure Americana voice.

It's presented as having come from an ancient text and the most correct book of the face of the earth.

It is offered as a companion to the Bible, as a second witness to Jesus.

To give it mystical qualities, the LDS claim it was "translated" by a young uneducated boy in a very short period of time – none of which is true.

But what is true - what we do KNOW – is the book borrows from a variety of well-known and popular sources of the time AND! AND! the Book does NOT – does NOT reflect those things that make Mormonism so repulsive (doctrinally) to Bible believing people!

The BOM says NOTHING at all about:

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Temple endowments, eternal marriage, or baptisms for the dead. 2) The garden as the place of atonement. 3) three degrees of glory 4) a Mother in Heaven 5) man becoming God or God having been a man. 6) the Aaronic Priesthood 7) that God the father has a body (which is another indication that the first vision was retroactively made up) 8) the Melchizedek priesthood 9) the conception of Jesus 10)a plurality of God's. 11)the Word of Wisdom 12)polygamy (except to denounce it) 13)premortal life (though there is an allusion to it) 14)blood atonement 15)the Nature of Satan or Angels 16)or polytheism <p>It is bait – a 19th Century literary work created from a compilation of existing sources – that the LDS use to get people to buy into the big con.</p> <p>It's the front money of a scam.</p>	
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<p>It's the nice façade on a crumbling building.</p> <p>It's the make-up on a drag queen.</p> <p>But in the end, it will lead almost anyone who calls it true to believing in things so far a field of what Jesus taught that they almost never come back to the simple truths of the Gospel.</p>	
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Book of Mormon

~ Part 4 of 5

(April 17, 2007)

In the writings of Joseph Smith (which Dean C. Jessee of BYU edited and put in a book called *The Papers of Joseph Smith*) Joseph said that he had an “intimate acquaintance” with evangelical religion and that he become “somewhat partial” to the Methodist faith.

Tonight we are going to show how much of an influence 19th century evangelical Protestantism actually had on Joseph Smith and particularly, how these persuasive evangelical methods and its resultant culture were worked into the text of the Book of Mormon.

Again, again, you must ask yourself – were these methods and themes actually inscribed on golden plates which the LDS Church insists is the source of the Book of Mormon OR did Joseph Smith borrow this information from somewhere else and pretend it was ancient?

If it is borrowed, we must conclude that the Book of Mormon’s origins are fraudulent, and therefore not worthy of allegiance that divine scripture demands.

Let me thank my friend Grant Palmer in advance for his excellent work in *An Insider’s View of Mormon Origins*, which has helped me so much as I’ve researched tonight’s topic.

I highly recommend his book.

First some personal admissions followed by some support for my admissions.

I am not a big fan of present-day Evangelical Christian culture especially when it comes to public displays of emotional outbursts, come-forward altar calls, revolving door public confessionals, or any other culturally lead manifestations of supposed inward spiritual convictions.

Very little of it is biblical and I have to work very hard at not seeing most of it as culturally contrived.

There is no biblical mandate for the present-day altar call, for slapping people on the forehead to heal them, for publicly speaking in tongues to prove personal salvation, for shaking, rolling in the aisles, or weeping hysterically.

I'm not saying people don't truly experience Jesus in these emotional displays. I refuse to put God in a box.

All I'm saying is these outbursts are NOT – by any means – biblically required.

Now scholars aren't completely sure, but they can point in the general direction to the people who gave these theatric legs in the church.

I am not going to address the theological implications of these men and their movements tonight but will instead focus on the methods they introduced to the lives of believers.

Let it be said, however, that the theological implications are astounding, and long story short, it was at this time in American history – thanks to men like Charles Finney – that the pure gospel message of “What has Jesus done” unfortunately

	<p>became, "What would Jesus do?"</p> <p>There is a huge difference in how these terms are absorbed into a believers life.</p>
<p>Generally speaking, it was a man named Charles Finney, born fourteen years before Joseph Smith, Jr., who, for the most part, introduced and popularized emotional outbursts in Christian religious gatherings.</p> <p>These outbursts included fainting, weeping, clapping maniacally, and the precursor to the present-day altar call, a thing called the "anxious bench."</p> <p>Antebellum revivals contained a number of almost predictable non-biblical elements in their revivals.</p> <p>The general formula looks something like this:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) There was a gathering of generally animated people harboring religious anticipations. 2) Some would recognizing the existence of guilt and sin in their lives. 3) They would cry out to be forgiven and free from the bondage of sin. 4) There would be an expected emotional response when forgiveness was obtained. <p>The Bible says that those who believe in their heart and confess with their mouth that Jesus is the Christ shall be saved.</p> <p><i>Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe</i></p>	<p>(note): the anxious bench was a place repentant sinners would come forward and take a seat as they prepared to have an outward spiritual experience.</p>

<p><i>in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.</i></p> <p>Romans 10:13 <i>For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.</i></p> <p>To the thief on the cross there was no anxious bench, to falling to the ground, no clapping, no coming forward, no public expulsion of glossalia.</p> <p>I personally know some very solid and true Christians who, in the quiet of their room, or office, or automobile, confessed Jesus with their mouths and were spiritually regenerated by grace through faith.</p> <p>What's my point?</p> <p>Joseph Smith took these popular 19th century revival practices (which were popularized by people like Charles Finney, Abel Thornton, Lorenzo Dow, Ray Potter, Eleazer Sherman, and Alfred Bennett) and thematically included them in the text of the Book of Mormon as if they were a normative event four to five hundred years before Jesus was even born.</p> <p>Examples? Okay.</p> <p>A Methodist camp meeting was held in Palmyra New York – Joseph Smith's home turf – on June 7th 1826.</p> <p>In June 7th 1826, Joseph claimed a knowledge of the golden plates but had not yet received them. Okay?</p> <p>Okay, listen.</p>	
<p>At this particular camp meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 10,00 people attended. Most in family units. 	<p>The King Benjamin Sermon:</p>

- They pitched their tents with the doors facing the stand where the preachers were sitting.
- Around the area where the revival was held a circle was drawn and the area was considered “sacred ground, a temple.”
- One preacher, named Benjamin Paddock, wrote a report of the revival that was published in the Methodist Magazine of August 1826.
- In the report it was said that the large crowd listened to the farewell of one Bishop M’Kendree, a Methodist leader who had presided over the area for years and had grown too old to serve any longer.

Speaking of the departing leader Bishop M’Kendree, listen to the description of this revivalistic event:

The people had such reverence for this “Sainted” man “that all were melted . . . and awed in his presence.”

Palmer, quoting from the Methodist Magazine wrote:

“In his emaciated and “feeble” condition, he spoke of his love for the people and then delivered a powerful message that covered “the whole process of personal salvation.” Tremendous unity prevailed among the crowd” and “nearly every unconverted person on the ground” committed oneself to Christ.

At the close of the meeting, *“blessings and newly appointed Preachers were made.”*

Now, let's turn to the Book of Mormon, and examine an account where a fictional King named Benjamin gives a farewell address to the people.

"The people gathered themselves together throughout the land, that they might go up to the temple to hear the last words which their (beloved) King Benjamin should speak unto them . . .

They pitched their tents round about, every man according to his family . . . every man having his tent with the door thereof towards the temple . . . the multitude being so great that King Benjamin caused a tower to be erected . . .

(And he said from the platform) "I am about to go down into my grave . . . I can no longer be your teacher . . . for even at this time my whole frame doth tremble exceedingly while attempting to speak unto you."

Like Bishop M'Kendree, King Benjamin expressed his love for the people and delivers a powerful sermon on salvation.

The people's response was so overwhelming that the Book of Mormon reads that "not one soul, except it were the little children, but who had entered into the covenant and taken upon them the name of Christ."

At the meetings end, they "appointed priests to teach the people."

Coincidences? Maybe.

So let's look at more.

One of the traditional methods of preaching – especially at revivals and especially by Methodist ministers in Joseph Smith’s younger days - was to blend descriptive phraseologies of the time with biblical terms.

This was designed to

(Southern accent)

“make a filthy soul shake like a willow in the eye of God’s storm, to awaken them, to expose their frightfully sinful condition and lay it bare before the All-Seeing Eye of Gawd!”

Like revival language present even today, evangelical sermons harped on themes like:

Sin and guilt
Repentance and grace
Fear and trembling

For whatever reason, preachers of the Great Awakening and thereafter developed their own style of speech, a sort of quasi-biblical vocabulary, and a system of phrases that sounded like they came from the mouth of God Himself – but didn’t.

What is really interesting is how these very 19th century pulpit terms and phrases found themselves in the Book of Mormon.

Listen!

Prior to the publishing of the BOM, Preacher Lorenzo Dow is quoted as using these terms in Joseph Smith’s day:

“awaken the mind . . . midst of darkness . . . prepared to die . . . everlasting mercy . . . What must I do? . . . cry for mercy . . . hard heart . . .to sing my dear redeemers praise .

. . . the pardoning love of God . . . “break these chains . . . the day of grace is now passed . . . and unprepared to meet God.”

Another local pastor, Alfred Bennett, spoke thusly –

Pains of hell . . . wicked heart . . . O blessed Jesus . . . unspeakably happy, overwhelmed with joy . . . slumbering consciousness . . . eternal welfare of others . . . awful terrors . . . clouds of darkness round your soul . . . filled with his love . . . racked with pain.

From the pulpit, preacher Abel Thornton cried –

Life is a state of probation . . . endless woe . . . sunk deep in my heart . . . hardness of heart . . . cry to the Lord for mercy . . . a great change in your heart . . . his arm extended to all . . . trembling voice . . . children of wrath by nature . . . sing a new song, even praises to God.

Eleazer Sherman touted –

. . . awful pains of death . . . forever miserable . . . what shall I do to be saved . . . tremble in his presence . . . a wounded heart . . . a thick cloud and such darkness . . . unto tears . . . exquisite happiness.

And preacher George Whitefield said –

Tormented in this flame . . . awake, arise from their sleep . . . Methinks I see the Judge sitting on his throne . . . til Christ be formed in your hearts.

Grant Palmer notes that while 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Nephi are books based on a lot of information taken straight out of the Bible, Jacob, Enos, Mosiah and Alma appear to

have been composed of a lot of material from the life of Joseph Smith.

He concludes:

“Interwoven among the modified Bible passages of the Book of Mormon (between Jacob 1 and Alma 42) are similar examples of literally hundreds of popular phrases from 19th century frontier preaching.”

See if you hear the similarities:

From Alma, Chapter 5

(a favorite chapter among the more Christian oriented LDS)

Awakened them out of a deep sleep . . . midst of darkness . . . encircled about by the bands of death and the chains of hell . . . a mighty change in your hearts . . . to sing the song of redeeming love . . . the arms of mercy extended toward them . . . and setting upon your heart the vain things of the world.

From Jacob Chapters 1-3 and 6

. . . wicked heart . . . wounded soul . . . the welfare of your souls . . . pierced with deep wounds . . . feast upon his love . . . awake from the slumber of death . . . pains of hell . . . come unto Christ . . . hard in heart . . . piercing eye of the Almighty, smoke ascendeth up forever . . . endless torment.

In the book of Enos evangelistic phrases are found:

Wrestle in prayer . . . joy of the Saints . . . sunk deep into my heart . . . welfare of my brethren . . .

But perhaps the most prolific and popular evangelistic phrases in the Book of Mormon are found back in

King Benjamin's sermons themselves:

Consider:

*Singing the praises of a just God .
...everlasting punishment ...shrink
from the presence of the Lord . .
...awful situation . . . happy state . . .
a state of misery . . .carnal state . .
. O have mercy . . . wrought a
mighty change in us, or in our
hearts . . .*

And this is only a sample – and not the best examples - due to my lack of time this past week to really dig in.

The book is littered – and I use that word purposefully – littered with 19th century terms and phrases that originated right then and there.

These phrases were NOT biblical, they were NOT passed down by Lehi and his sons, but they were straight out of the mouths of revivalist preachers right in Joseph Smith's home town PRIOR to when the plates were supposedly received.

You want more?
You want more?

These revivalist exhorters also spent a great deal of time talking about the evils of costly apparel, Indians being equals, attacks on Catholics and Masons, America being the "New Jerusalem," a concern for the name of the Church, the proper age for baptizing children, and the nature

<p>Finally, before we go to your calls, let's top tonight off with just a little more revelatory information into the origins of the Book of Mormon.</p> <p>Remember at the beginning of the show, I said:</p> <p><i>"Antebellum revivals contained a number of almost predictable non-biblical elements in their revivals.</i></p> <p><i>The general formula looks something like this:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>5) There was a gathering of generally animated people harboring religious anticipations.</i> <i>6) Some would recognizing the existence of guilt and sin in their lives.</i> <i>7) They would cry out to be forgiven and free from the bondage of sin.</i> <i>8) There would be an expected emotional response when forgiveness was obtained."</i> <p>Let's turn to the Book of Mormon, once again, and see if these revival patterns are present.</p> <p>Now remember, I am not saying these patterns are not indicative of the Lord working in people's lives.</p> <p>What I am saying is these themes existed strongly in Joseph Smith's time and were incorporated into the themes of the BOM.</p> <p>It's just not feasible or reasonable to believe that the very same cultural processions found in an 18th century revivalist movement</p>	<p>of God – all, as we've said, are themes found in the Book of Mormon.</p>
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<p>would be described carbon-copy in the record of a nomadic people-group some 2000 years earlier.</p> <p>Ready?</p>	
<p>As we conclude tonight's message, let me ask you one thing:</p> <p>"If you could know that the Book of Mormon is a work of fiction, would that be important to you?</p> <p>This is really an important question because if you say "No, I really don't care. I know the Church is true regardless," then you are not interested in Truth. You're only interested in yourself – your lifestyle, your thoughts, your interests.</p> <p>But, if you say, I want to know truth, no matter how hard it is to initially bear, then you are a seeker, and God will – if you continue to seek – reveal Himself to you.</p> <p>This is "The Heart of the Matter" so to speak.</p> <p>But let me tell you, let me promise you, if you place your life, and trust, and hope in the saving blood of Jesus Christ completely, you have nothing to fear.</p> <p>Nothing. And God will make Himself known to you.</p>	

General Conference

(April 24, 2007)

<p>Beginning tonight – and every Tuesday evening thereafter from 9:30pm to midnight - you will find me and my Bible parked at a table in Squatters Pub in downtown Salt Lake City.</p> <p>We'll call it a Pastor in a Pub.</p> <p>Contrary to popular opinion, I am not a drinker but I will be there to dialogue with you, answer questions, and provide biblical counseling face to face.</p> <p>All are welcome.</p> <p>So if you should you want to stop by for a face to face conversation tonight or any Tuesday night thereafter, I'll see you at Squatter's Pub from 9:30 to midnight every Tuesday night of the week.</p> <p>By the way, Squatter's Pub is located at:</p> <p>3rd South and 150 West right in downtown SLC!</p>	
<p>I'm going to take a few moments this evening and clean house – addressing issues that have piled up around us over the last month or so.</p>	
<p>FIRST, let's look at two talks delivered at the recent LDS general conference:</p> <p>Elder David A Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles gave a speech called "<i>Ye Must Be Born Again.</i>"</p> <p>In it, he makes an analogy of making</p>	

pickles with being spiritually regenerated.

Says Bednar:

“A pickle is a cucumber that has been transformed according to a specific recipe and series of steps.”

He then lists the specific steps as

Preparing and cleaning the cucumbers.
Immersing and saturating the cucumbers in brine over an extended period of time, and sealing the cured pickles in jars that have been sterilized and purified.

In typical LDS vernacular, Bednar adds:

“This procedure requires time and cannot be hurried, and none of the essential steps can be ignored or avoided.”

Let me tell you, this self-proclaimed Apostle of Jesus Christ lays out sheer heresy when it comes to understanding spiritual regeneration.

Like the preparing and cleansing of a cucumber, Bednar, instead of saying we are cleansed of all sin by Jesus states:

“you and I can be prepared with “the words of faith and of good doctrine” and initially cleansed through the ordinances and covenants administered by the authority of the Aaronic priesthood!”

What?

He goes on to say:

“The Lord has established a high standard of cleanliness” and “Proper preparing and cleaning are the first basic steps in the process of being born-again.”

This religious rhetoric is so far from the biblical mandate for spiritual rebirth that it makes me sick to hear such confusing and misappropriated descriptions from a person who claims he is an Apostle of the Lord.

If we could clean ourselves up first, why would we need to be reborn?

Come to Lord as you are – in your filth – and let Him reconcile you to God.

And let's remember that the Lord used birth purposefully.

And birth is not a lifelong process – it's a singular event. It happens and we're then born or reborn.

Let's also remember that there are no specific or essential steps to spiritual regeneration.

Paul was reborn one way, I was reborn in another. To some rebirth is revealed immediately. To others it is revealed gradually.

There is no exacting steps dictated by religion.

Speaking of rebirth, Jesus told Nicodemus

John 3:8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

Religions want people under their thumb and authority. But you can go directly to God in prayer and faith and experience all He has to give you.

I find it really interesting that Apostle Bednar does NOT associate the cleansing of our

sin with Jesus, but instead ties it directly to ordinances.

What a shame.

The next section of spiritual rebirth – the immersion in brine over a long period of time – seems to be in line with what the Word teaches justified believers should “do with themselves” once they have embraced Jesus by faith and have been saved by His grace.

It has been said that “To every Christian there is the miracle of the moment, followed by the tasks of a lifetime.”

I think this is true and I think the LDS Church does a good job of helping people with the “tasks of a life time.”

But the horse (Jesus) must be before the cart (the tasks) otherwise people are working to save themselves, not realizing that salvation is *“of grace, and not of works, lest any man should boast.”*

Finally, Bednar adds another step in what he calls His “parable of the pickle” - the sealing of the pickle jars in boiling water by saying:

“In a similar way , we progressively become purified and sanctified as you and I are washed in the blood of the Lamb, are born-again, and receive the ordinances and honor the covenants that are administered by the authority of the Melchizedek Priesthood.”

This sentence perfectly represents what is different between the LDS version of salvation by justification and sanctification and the Christian view of the same.

The LDS Church, as Bednar affirms here in

the Pickle Parable, attempts to tell us that
we progressively become purified and sanctified.

The Bible is replete with verses which plainly state that we are justified AND sanctified by faith in Jesus. It is His righteousness that is imputed to us, not our own works or attempts at personal purification.

Bednar also infers

that we are washed and rewashed in the blood of the Lamb

This is typical of an ordinance-based religion. Like the Jews of ancient Israel who offered sacrifices up continually, the LDS insist that constant justification is required for permanent justification.

Christians know better than this.

Heb 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Why would a religion want you to believe that you must renew your rebirth each week through a sacrament? Because it gets you to constantly seek for absolution, never obtaining the rest promised by God.

Finally, Bednar says

that we must “receive the ordinances and honor the covenants that are administered by the authority of the Melchizedek Priesthood.”

My friends, please, please listen to me:

Jesus gave Himself for you to come to Him

directly. There are no more intermediary priests or priesthoods necessary to reconcile you to Him week end and week out.

He is but a prayer of faith away from your constant peace. He will change you and give you new life permanently.

He will justify you, He will sanctify you, and He will give you the power and strength to walk with Him every day – if you let Him.

I think it is fitting that Apostle Bednar chose to use the process of pickling a cucumber as his analogy. This is prototypical LDS teaching.

As a Christian, I would actually think of the reverse.

We are pickled, shrunken, withered, and immersed in the brine of sin, processed by the ways of men and the world.

Pickled by pride and sin, our state is apparently permanent, one which cannot be reversed by any human means.

But then there is hope in Christ, the savior, the redeemer, our very creator.

And by His grace through faith, the Lord steps in and gives us new life, reversing the effects of sin, making us beautiful and new cucumbers, fresh from the earth, viable and strong.

And as long as we abide in the vine, we will remain alive in Him.

SECOND –

Elder Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles gave a speech called “The Miracle of the Holy Bible.

I found this to be a good step in helping correct the earlier views the LDS church has had of the Bible.

Elder Russell commends the Bible, claims to embrace it, never says anything about it being translated correctly, and overall places the Bible on the same shelf as the other books of Scripture Latter-day Saints use.

I think such talks are certainly a step in the right direction in helping bring the LDS to loving AND trusting the Bible.

Naturally, I disagreed with Apostle Ballards statement that “the Book of Mormon does not dilute nor diminish nor deemphasize the Bible. On the contrary, it expands, extends, and exalts it.”

I would beg to differ.

The Bible doesn’t need another book to expand it, extend it, or exalt it. It is God’s Word and has stood as such since He spoke.

Just as the LDS Church does not have two prophets, co-Bishops, or joint Presidents of the Quorum of the Twelve, additional books only cause people to exalt one over the other.

In the end, however, I applaud Elder Ballard’s comments on the Bible, and pray every Latter-day Saint will make it their only source of scriptural truth.

THIRD -

Salt Lake Tribune Headline reporting on the LDS Conference reads:

“Mormons: We are Christians”

Can I take a minute and offer an illustration

in response to this claim?

I know a family in Southern California who owns 12 McDonald franchises.

The McDonald's corporation has been around a long time.

worked very hard to establish itself
packaging
food content
marketing

Outlined in its manuals.

Supposed someone came along and opened a small chain of stores and called them McDonald's too?

Would they have the right?
Would they be right?
Would the real McDonald's just roll over and let them make their claims?

What if Jehovah's Witnesses started saying they are Mormons?

What if they changed their name to The COJCOLDS?

What would the LDS church do in response?

FOURTH –

In a recent radio interview – the Podcast is available on our site at (www.bornagainmormon.com) the host called several statements I made into question. I'd like to support my statements here and now.

The first had to do with the official LDS version of the Bible. I maintained on the show that the LDS use and recommend the

King James Version. The host disagreed. We debated this ridiculous argument for some time but in the end I stand by my statement and include the following as support:

In the Church News, dated November 16th 1974, page 16 it reads:

“The presiding brethren urge the use of the King James version of the Bible, which is the official Bible of the Church . . .”

I have not found any pronouncement by the LDS Church that claims this null and void.

The second statement I made was that it was against the Sabbath day (of the Old Testament) to bear a burden. The host said not so. I said it was in the book of Jeremiah. He said, “I don’t believe you.” Unable to quote passage and verse, I could not say otherwise.

Here are some of the passages to which I was referring:

Jeremiah 17:21 *Thus saith the LORD;*
Take heed to yourselves, and bear no burden on the sabbath day, nor bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem;

Jeremiah 17:22 *Neither carry forth a burden out of your houses on the sabbath day, neither do ye any work, but hallow ye the sabbath day, as I commanded your fathers.*

Jeremiah 17:24 *And it shall come to pass, if ye diligently hearken unto me, saith the LORD, to bring in no burden through the gates of this city on the sabbath day, but hallow the sabbath day, to do no work therein;*

Jeremiah 17:27 *But if ye will not hearken unto me to hallow the sabbath day, and not to bear a burden, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the sabbath day; then will I kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched.*

Finally, in defense of Joseph Smith's practice of secret polygamy, the host stated that there was no proof the founding prophet had intimate relations with any of the women he made his wives.

My response was what is wrong with an intimate relationship with someone to whom you are legally wed – especially if they were legally wed by virtue of the command of God.

It seemed rather odd to me that the hosts justification or rationalization for the multiple secret marriages of Joseph Smith to a number of women (including several teenage girls) was to suggest that “there is no proof they had sexual relations.” Is this what the LDS church is using today as its defense of Joseph's plural marriages? That there is no proof of marital consummation?

Come on!

In the next few months we'll examine the plural marriages of Joseph Smith and will show that the end result of this man-centered practice was painful, disastrous, and not of God.

FIFTH

We live in a day where being tolerant is more important than speaking truth.

At a time when even some of the best religious minds are substituting the truths of

<p>God word with the opinions of Man.</p> <p>I have been criticized recently for publicly calling an older woman out on her beliefs last week.</p> <p>The setting was the “Heart in the Church” in Logan where an older woman stood and stated that she was a Presbyterian Minister.</p> <p>She made an unsolicited statement that said she recognizes that Jesus is important but that there are “far too many good people who have lived good lives who will certainly go to heaven even if they do not accept Him.”</p> <p>Where Jesus Himself said “<i>I am the way, the truth and the Life, no man comes to the father but by me</i>” the “politically correct diversity lovers” of the world are saying all good men and women will live with God whether they know Jesus or not.</p> <p>Where Jesus said “<i>Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat</i>” the liberals are claiming all roads lead – so long as they are polite and respectful and humane – to God!</p> <p>Like it or not, I speak for the Word of God.</p>	
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Book of Mormon

~ Part 5 of 5

(May 1, 2007)

Listen, I'd like to say something relative to a reprehensible trend I see being carried out by some reprehensible souls.

That is, some LDS apologists have decided to label me and our ministry "anti-Mormon."

And even though I have made it abundantly clear that I am NOT anti-Mormon, that I love Mormon people, that my family is Mormon, that I think there are many LDS who are in fine standing with God through their faith in Jesus, and that I am one of the only LDS critics who believes believing Latter-day Saints may go to heaven, it is not enough!

Can a person not question and examine Mormonism without being labeled anti-Mormon?

No.

It's a manipulative tool.

All it takes to keep a majority of the LDS from reading or listening to anything is to have enough members say, "That's anti-Mormon" and the minds and doors snap shut.

I've found that there is nothing I can do to stop this term from being used against anyone and everyone who questions or critiques the LDS church.

I am now inclined by virtue of our mission to fight fire with fire.

As far as I'm concerned any member of the LDS church who claims that **the Church**

<p>the Lord Jesus Christ established was lost to apostasy and then restored through the man Joseph Smith is anti-Christian.</p> <p>You are an anti-Christian if you claim believers have no authority to act in God's name.</p> <p>You are anti-Christian if you say Mormonism is "the only true church on the face of the earth."</p> <p>You are anti-Christ if you say salvation comes by anything but grace.</p> <p>You are anti-Christian if you claim that people must accept temple rites to live with God after this life.</p> <p>MormonISM has gone on far too long playing the victim card at every single turn and labeling others as hate-mongers and anti-Mormon when your actions against Christianity are just as profound – if not worse.</p> <p>Your victim days – minimal as they were relative to Christianity – are over.</p> <p>If I am going to be labeled anti-Mormon with the tacit approval of the LDS leadership, then Mormonism is going to be labeled anti-Christian – because that is what it is under the LDS definition of "anti."</p> <p>I call on every single Christian in this state and elsewhere to assign this title to any Latter-day Saint who embraces Mormonism to its fullest.</p> <p>In light of the LDS tactics, this is only fair.</p>	
<p>In our examination of the contents of the Book of Mormon over the past four weeks we've uncovered fairly sound evidence that</p>	

Joseph borrowed from

- The early American political themes against tyranny and anarchy, which prevailed in his day.
- a variety of popular religious themes including actual revivalistic phrases used by preachers in his day.
- anti-Catholic themes, anti-Masonic themes, Joseph Smith's own name, and an assortment of "restorationist" thoughts relative to America being set apart as a land of religious freedom.

Tonight we're going to examine the role the Bible itself played in Joseph Smith's construction of the Book of Mormon.

Alright, let's begin by looking at the obvious – the writing style Joseph Smith used in the Book of Mormon. It's called King's English and it came straight out of where? The King James Bible!

Now contrary to a really ridiculous opinion that has been bantered about LDS Elder's quorums and seminary classrooms for years, Joseph Smith and his family did NOT speak "King's English" in 1820.

"Father, hast thou been true to thine obligations?"

"Nay," replies the sullen father, "nay."

No, the Smith family wrote and spoke in early American rural English, which may have sounded something like how an articulate and religiously-verbose hillbilly would sound today.

"I seed a lite vary, vary huvenly . . . as thoughd it were a beem stret from God."

<p>So why <i>would</i> Joseph Smith translate this ancient record in a style that mimics a translation of the Bible in King's English?</p> <p>I don't really know. But I would guess that maybe he thought that it would make the book sound more like the Bible and therefore be more competitive with it?</p> <p>Remember, the Book of Mormon was supposedly written on golden plates in a mysterious language called "reformed Egyptian." Why it reads like a 17th Century Shakespearian play is beyond me.</p> <p>But this isn't all.</p> <p>There are actual verbatim verses from the King James Version of the Bible THAT MADE IT INTO THE BOOK OF MORMON!</p> <p>The only reasonable explanation for direct quotes from the KJV of the Bible to make their way into the Book of Mormon would be if Joseph Smith borrowed, stole, or plagiarized them from the Bible itself.</p> <p>I don't recall this fact being included in my primary lessons on how the Book of Mormon came to be.</p>	
<p>Now here's the thing, folks. And listen very closely to this.</p> <p>Writings for The New Testament didn't begin until well after the death and resurrection of the Bible – let's say about 50 CE.</p> <p>Got that?</p> <p>And when these writings – by Luke, Matthew, Paul, Peter, Mark, and John – were written in Greek.</p>	

The Greek was then translated into Latin, and German, and then English.

So the phrases found in the English versions of your Bible ARE NOT exactly the way the apostles wrote them.

Let's look at an example of this:

In Mark 3:5 it states:

"being grieved for the hardness of their hearts"

This is the King James English translation from the Greek, which actually reads:

"sunlupoumenos epi têi pôrôsei tês kardias autôn"

A direct translation of this Greek would have read something like this:

Grieving hard upon heart of themselves.

Now remember!

The Greek New Testament started to be written around 50 CE.

It was written in Greek.

Translated into Latin.

Then into German.

Then into King's English. And the words had to be turned around to make sense for us.

If any of you have taken Spanish, you know that an English sentence that reads "The red ball" will often read in Spanish, "The ball red."

<p>Okay? Now get this.</p> <p>The Book of Mormon claims to be an ancient record that began to be written 600 years BEFORE Jesus was even born in a land where there was no Greek.</p> <p>But the Book of Mormon contains exact phrases taken directly from the King James version of the New Testament!</p> <p>This is an impossibility!</p> <p>Let me give you a few examples from a study done by my friend Michael Marquardt.</p>	
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Literary Dependence in the Book of Mormon: Two Studies

By H. Michael Marquardt

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<i>Book of Mormon</i>	<i>New Testament</i>
1. the mysteries of God (1 Ne. 1:1; 2:16)	the mysteries of God (1 Cor. 4:1)
2. being grieved because of the hardness of their hearts (1 Ne. 2:18; 7:8)	being grieved for the hardness of their hearts (Mark 3:5)
3. I also know of a surety that the Lord hath (1 Ne. 5:8)	I know of a surety, that the Lord hath (Acts 12:11)
4. great things the Lord hath done for us (1 Ne. 7:11)	great things the Lord hath done for thee (Mark 5:19)
5. the natural branches (1 Ne. 10:14)	the natural branches (Rom. 11:24)
6. should be grafted in (1 Ne. 10:14)	shall be grafted in (Rom. 11:23)

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| 7. | the power of the Holy Ghost (1 Ne. 10:17, 19; 13:37) | the power of the Holy Ghost (Rom. 15:13) |
| 8. | all those who diligently seek him (1 Ne. 10:17) | of them that diligently seek him (Heb. 11:6) |
| 9. | the same yesterday, today, and forever (1 Ne. 10:18) | the same yesterday, and today, and forever (Heb. 13:8) |
| 10. | bear record that it is the Son of God (1 Ne. 11:7) | bear record that this is the Son of God (John 1:34) |
| 11. | the Lamb of God (1 Ne. 11:21, 27, 31, 32) | the Lamb of God (John 1:29, 36) |
| 12. | the Holy Ghost come down out of heaven and abide upon him in the form of a dove (1 Ne. 11:27) | the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him (Luke 3:22) |
| 13. | the twelve apostles of the Lamb (1 Ne. 11:35, 36; 12:9; 13:26, 39-41; 14:20) | the twelve apostles of the Lamb (Rev. 21:14) |
| 14. | judge the twelve tribes of Israel (1 Ne. 12:9) | judging the twelve tribes of Israel (Luke 22:30) |
| 15. | made white in the blood of the Lamb (1 Ne. 12:11) | made them white in the blood of the Lamb (Rev. 7:14) |
| 16. | pervert the right ways of the Lord (1 Ne. 13:27) | pervert the right ways of the Lord (Acts 13:10) |
| 17. | endure unto the end ... shall be saved (1 Ne. 13:37) | endureth to the end shall be saved (Matt. 10:22) |
| 18. | tidings of great joy (1 Ne. 13:37) | tidings of great joy (Luke 2:10) |
| 19. | last shall be first, and the first shall be last (1 Ne. 13:42) | first shall be last; and the last shall be first (Matt. 19:30) |

20.	the mother of abominations (1 Ne. 14:9)	the mother of harlots and abominations (Rev. 17:5)
21.	the whore of all the earth, and she sat upon many waters; and she had dominion over all the earth, among all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people (1 Ne. 14:11)	the great whore that sitteth upon many waters ... The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues (Rev. 17:1, 15)
22.	I was carried away in the spirit (1 Ne. 14:30)	he carried me away in the spirit (Rev. 17:3; 21:10)
23.	hard to be understood (1 Ne. 15:3)	hard to be understood (2 Pet. 3:16)
24.	judged of their works (1 Ne. 15:32, 33)	judged every man according to their works (Rev. 20:13)
25.	were past feeling (1 Ne. 17:45)	being past feeling (Eph. 4:19)
26.	the winds did cease ... and there was a great calm (1 Ne. 18:21)	the wind ceased, and there was a great calm (Mark 4:39)
27.	all scriptures unto us, that it might be for our profit and learning (1 Ne. 19:23)	All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine (2 Tim. 3:16)
28.	the lusts of the flesh (1 Ne. 22:23)	the lusts of the flesh (2 Peter 2:18)
29.	the armor of righteousness (2 Ne. 1:23)	the armor of righteousness (2 Cor. 6:7)
30.	by the law no flesh is justified (2 Ne. 2:5)	by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified (Gal. 2:16)
31.	full of grace and truth (2 Ne. 2:6)	full of grace and truth (John 1:14)

32.	the first that should rise (2 Ne. 2:8)	the first that should rise (Acts 26:23)
33.	that old serpent, who is the devil (2 Ne. 2:18)	that old serpent, which is the Devil (Rev. 20:2)
34.	who is the father of all lies (2 Ne. 2:18)	he is a liar, and the father of it (John 8:44)
35.	have chosen the good part (2 Ne. 2:30)	hath chosen that good part (Luke 10:42)
36.	O wretched man that I am (2 Ne. 4:17)	O wretched man that I am (Rom. 7:24)
37.	the sins which do so easily beset me (2 Ne. 4:18)	the sin which doth so easily beset us (Heb. 12:1)
38.	Yea, I know that God will give liberally to him that asketh (2 Ne. 4:35)	If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally (James 1:5)
39.	this corruption could not put on incorruption (2 Ne. 9:7)	this corruptible must put on incorruption (1 Cor. 15:53)
40.	transformeth himself nigh unto an angel of light (2 Ne. 9:9)	Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14)
41.	death and hell must deliver up their dead (2 Ne. 9:12)	death and hell delivered up the dead (Rev. 20:13)
42.	the paradise of God (2 Ne. 9:13)	the paradise of God (Rev. 2:7)
43.	they who are righteous shall be righteous still, and they who are filthy shall be filthy still (2 Ne. 9:16)	he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still (Rev. 22:11)
44.	the devil and his angels; and they shall go away into everlasting fire;	Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil

	prepared for them (2 Ne. 9:16)	and his angels (Matt. 25:41)
45.	a lake of fire and brimstone (2 Ne. 9:16)	lake of fire and brimstone (Rev. 20:10)
46.	ascendeth up forever and ever (2 Ne. 9:16)	ascendeth up for ever and ever (Rev. 14:11)
47.	their joy shall be full (2 Ne. 9:18)	that your joy might be full (John 15:11)
48.	that lake of fire and brimstone, which is endless torment (2 Ne. 9:19)	the lake of fire and brimstone ... and shall be tormented day and night for ever (Rev. 20:10)
49.	commandeth all men that they must repent (2 Ne. 9:23)	commandeth all men every where to repent (Acts 17:30)
50.	where there is no law given there is no punishment (2 Ne. 9:25)	where no law is, there is no transgression (Rom. 4:15)
51.	their wisdom is foolishness (2 Ne. 9:28)	the wisdom of this world is foolishness (1 Cor. 3:19)
52.	But woe unto the rich (2 Ne. 9:30)	But woe unto you that are rich (Luke 6:24)
53.	hearts are upon their treasures (2 Ne. 9:30)	where your treasure is, there will your heart be also (Matt. 6:21/Luke 12:34)
54.	die in their sins (2 Ne. 9:38)	die in your sins (John 8:21, 24)
55.	to be carnally-minded is death, and to be spiritually-minded is life (2 Ne. 9:39)	to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life (Rom. 8:6)
56.	And whoso knocketh, to him will he open (2 Ne. 9:42)	and to him that knocketh it shall be opened (Matt. 7:8)

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| 57. | For should the mighty miracles be wrought among other nations they would repent (2 Ne. 10:4) | for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented (Matt. 11:21) |
| 58. | reconciled unto God (2 Ne. 10:24; 25:23) | reconciled to God (Rom. 5:10; 2 Cor. 5:20) |
| 59. | through the grace of God that ye are saved (2 Ne. 10:24) | by grace are ye saved (Eph. 2:8) |
| 60. | the power of the resurrection (2 Ne. 10:25) | the power of his resurrection (Phil. 3:10) |
| 61. | the fullness of his own time (2 Ne. 11:7) | the fullness of the time (Gal. 4:4) |
| 62. | the Only Begotten of the Father (2 Ne. 25:12) | the only begotten of the Father (John 1:14) |
| 63. | as many as will believe on his name (2 Ne. 25:14) | to them that believe on his name (John 1:12) |
| 64. | there is none other name given under heaven save it be this Jesus Christ, of which I have spoken, whereby man can be saved (2 Ne. 25:20) | there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12) |
| 65. | by grace that we are saved (2 Ne. 25:23) | by grace are ye saved (Eph. 2:8) |
| 66. | in no wise be cast out (2 Ne. 25:29) | in no wise cast out (John 6:37) |
| 67. | grind them to powder (2 Ne. 26:5) | grind him to powder (Matt. 21:44/Luke 20:18) |
| 68. | darkness rather than light (2 Ne. 26:10) | darkness rather than light (John 3:19) |
| 69. | the power of the Holy | the power of the Holy |

	Ghost (2 Ne. 26:13)	Ghost (Rom. 15:13)
70.	layeth down his own life (2 Ne. 26:24)	lay down my life (John 10:15, 17; 13:37)
71.	he may draw all men unto him (2 Ne. 26:24)	I ... will draw all men unto me (John 12:32)
72.	bond and free, male and female (2 Ne. 26:33)	bond nor free ... male nor female (Gal. 3:28)
73.	will beat us with a few stripes (2 Ne. 28:8)	be beaten with few stripes (Luke 12:48)
74.	judged according to their works (2 Ne. 28:23)	judged every man according to their works (Rev. 20:13)
75.	a lake of fire (2 Ne. 28:23)	a lake of fire (Rev. 19:20)
76.	gift of the Holy Ghost (2 Ne. 28:26)	gift of the Holy Ghost (Acts 2:38; 10:45)
77.	out of the books which shall be written I will judge the world, every man according to their works (2 Ne. 29:11)	out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works (Rev. 20:12)
78.	ye shall all likewise perish (2 Ne. 30:1)	ye shall all likewise perish (Luke 13:3, 5)
79.	There is nothing which is secret save it shall be revealed (2 Ne. 30:17)	for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed (Matt. 10:26/Luke 12:2)
80.	made manifest in the light (2 Ne. 30:17)	made manifest by the light (Eph. 5:13)
81.	the doctrine of Christ (2 Ne. 31:2)	the doctrine of Christ (Heb. 6:1; 2 John 9)
82.	the Lamb of God, which should take away the sins of the world (2 Ne. 31:4)	the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world (John 1:29)
83.	to fulfill all righteousness	to fulfill all righteousness

	(2 Ne. 31:5)	(Matt. 3:15)
84.	the Holy Ghost descended upon him in the form of a dove (2 Ne. 31:8)	the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him (Luke 3:22)
85.	receive the Holy Ghost (2 Ne. 31:13)	receive the Holy Ghost (Acts 8:15, 19)
86.	baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost (2 Ne. 31:13)	baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire (Matt. 3:11/Luke 3:16)
87.	He that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved (2 Ne. 31:15)	he that endureth to the end shall be saved (Matt. 10:22; 24:13)
88.	there is none other way nor name given under heaven whereby man can be saved (2 Ne. 31:21)	there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12)
89.	of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost (2 Ne. 31:21)	of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost (Matt. 28:19)
90.	because ye ask not (2 Ne. 32:4)	because ye ask not (James 4:2)
91.	for Christ's sake (Jacob 1:4)	for Christ's sake (1 Cor. 4:10; 2 Cor. 12:10; Eph. 4:32)
92.	lest by any means (Jacob 1:7)	lest by any means (1 Cor. 8:9; 2 Cor. 11:3; Gal. 2:2)
93.	But before ye seek for riches, seek ye for the kingdom of God (Jacob 2:18)	But seek ye first the kingdom of God ... and all these things shall be added unto you (Matt. 6:33)
94.	hope in Christ (Jacob 2:19)	hope in Christ (1 Cor. 15:19)
95.	lake of fire and brimstone which is the second death	lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which

	(Jacob 3:11)	is the second death (Rev. 21:8)
96.	the branches of the wild olive-tree, and graft them in (Jacob 5:9)	the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in (Rom. 11:17)
97.	Nevertheless, not my will be done (Jacob 7:14)	nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done (Luke 22:42)
98.	thy faith hath made thee whole (Enos 8)	thy faith hath made thee whole (Matt. 9:22/Mark 5:34; 10:52/Luke 8:48; 17:19)
99.	Whatsoever thing ye shall ask in faith, believing ... ye shall receive it (Enos 15)	whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive (Matt. 21:22)
100.	Come unto me, ye blessed (Enos 27)	Come, ye blessed (Matt. 25:34)
101.	grievous to be borne (Mosiah 2:14)	grievous to be borne (Matt. 23:4)
102.	clear conscience before God (Mosiah 2:15)	good conscience before God (Acts 23:1)
103.	Glad tidings of great joy (Mosiah 3:3)	good tidings of great joy (Luke 2:10)
104.	there shall be no other name given nor any other way nor means whereby salvation can come (Mosiah 3:17)	there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12)
105.	he judgeth, and his judgment is just (Mosiah 3:18)	I judge: and my judgment is just (John 5:30)
106.	become as little children (Mosiah 3:18)	become as little children (Matt. 18:3)
107.	natural man is an enemy	the natural man receiveth

	to God (Mosiah 3:19)	not the things of the Spirit of God (1 Cor. 2:14)
108.	enemy to all righteousness (Mosiah 4:14)	enemy of all righteousness (Acts 13:10)
109.	whatsoever ye ask that is right, in faith, believing that ye shall receive (Mosiah 4:21)	whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive (Matt. 21:22)
110.	grievous to be borne (Mosiah 7:15)	grievous to be borne (Matt. 23:4)
111.	a leathern girdle about their loins (Mosiah 10:8)	a leathern girdle about his loins (Matt. 3:4)
112.	He is the light ... of the world (Mosiah 16:9)	I am the light of the world (John 8:12; 9:5)
113.	This mortal shall put on immortality (Mosiah 16:10)	this mortal shall have put on immortality (1 Cor. 15:54)
114.	This corruption shall put on incorruption (Mosiah 16:10)	this corruptible shall have put on incorruption (1 Cor. 5:54)
115.	And then I will confess unto them that I never knew them (Mosiah 26:27)	And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you (Matt. 7:23)
116.	forgive one another your trespasses (Mosiah 26:31)	forgive men their trespasses (Matt. 6:14)
117.	Pray without ceasing (Mosiah 26:39)	Pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17)
118.	born of the Spirit (Mosiah 27:24)	born of the Spirit (John 3:8)
119.	Marvel not that all mankind ... must be born again (Mosiah 27:25)	Marvel not that ... Ye must be born again (John 3:7)

120. the gall of bitterness and bonds of iniquity (Mosiah 27:29) the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity (Acts 8:23)

To clarify, it would be like me saying I found a 2000 year old book buried in my backyard which was written in the “Jujujianist language” and I translated it into English.

But when you read through my translation you come across phrases and words that belong to a completely different era!

Suppose on page one, I have a general on the stand in an ancient courtroom shouting “You can’t handle the truth!” and then on page 5 there’s the words “microwave popcorn,” “Boeing 747,” and “McDonald’s Happy meal.”

What would you say about the ancient book I claim to have discovered in my back yard? You would say that I and it are frauds!

Then why can’t you say this about the Book of Mormon?

In addition to hundreds of exact anachronistic phrases that have been taken from the Bible and placed in the Book of Mormon, Joseph also took 5 full chapters right out of the biblical record and stuck them in the book!

3rd Nephi 12, 13, 14, 24, 25 – and these don’t include some very lengthy quotes taken right out of the text too.

And then there are biblical themes running throughout the Book of Mormon, including a theme closely replicating the Exodus.

In “An Insiders View of Mormon Origins,” Grant Palmer provides some excellent “ comparisons between the New Testament narrative and it’s real life characters and the fictional

characters found in the Book of Mormon.	
<p>A)</p> <p>In the Book of Mormon, Alma 19, Joseph Smith includes a story about a man named Lamoni who is dying.</p> <p>Lamoni's wife sends for the righteous Nephite character Ammon to save him.</p> <p>It says that some say "<i>he stinketh</i>" but Ammon says, "<i>He is not dead but 'sleepeth' and 'shall rise again.'</i>" Then Ammon said unto the wife, "<i>Believest thou this?</i>" And she said unto him <i>I believe and rose.</i>"</p>	<p>B)</p> <p>In the Bible, we have the story of Lazarus found in John 11.</p> <p>They <i>sent</i> for Jesus and (Jesus said) "<i>This sickness is not unto death for Lazarus sleepeth.</i>" Jesus also said "thy brother shall rise again" and asked "<i>Believeth thou this?</i>" She said unto Him, <i>Yea, Lord.</i> She also said, "<i>He stinketh.</i>"</p> <p>Summary:</p> <p>The phrase "he stinketh" appears once in the Bible and once in the Book of Mormon.</p> <p>The words "he stinketh" and "he sleepeth" are found together only in these two chapters.</p> <p>The seven-word phrase, "believeth thou this? She said unto him," appears only in John and Alma.</p> <p>Here is the question for you – were these words in the Golden plates or were they borrowed from the Bible by Joseph Smith.</p> <p>You know the answer, but what the answer mean to you is devastating . . . and so you rationalize out of self-protection.</p>
<p>Let's take another.</p> <p>Consider the Book of Mormon character Alma the Younger and the</p>	

<p>Biblical figure Paul.</p> <p>Both men . . .</p> <p>Were wicked before they were dramatically converted.</p> <p>Both traveled about persecuting and seeking to destroy the Church of God.</p> <p>Both were persecuting the church when they saw a heavenly vision.</p> <p>Both had companions fall to the earth while not being able to understand the voice that spoke to them.</p> <p>Both were asked in vision why they persecuted the Lord.</p> <p>Both were struck dumb or blind, causing helplessness, and were assisted by their companions.</p> <p>Both went without food before converting.</p> <p>Both then preached the gospel and both performed the same miracle.</p> <p>Both supported themselves by their own labors.</p> <p>Both were put in prison, and after they prayed, and earthquake resulted in their bands being loosed.</p> <p>Both used the exact same phrases in their exhortations – and there are a number of them.</p> <p>Remember, Alma the Younger was supposed to have been tooling around the ancient Americas more than a hundred years before Jesus was even born – and the Book of Mormon has</p>	
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<p>him speaking the same words as Paul whose ministry began AFTER the death and resurrection of the LORD.</p> <p>You want more?</p> <p>How about one more of the many?</p>	
	<p>Joseph didn't limit his plaguerisms to the official and authorized books of the Bible but included some plaguerisms from the apocrapha!</p> <p>Apocrypha (means hidden, spurious)</p> <p>the name given to certain ancient books which found a place in the LXX and the Latin Vulgate versions of the Old Testament.</p> <p>They were also appended to all the great translations of the Bible made in and around the sixteenth century.</p> <p>They have, however, no claim to be included in the inspired Word.</p> <p>First,</p> <p>They are not once quoted by the New Testament writers, who frequently quote from the LXX.</p> <p>Our Lord and his apostles confirmed the authority the ordinary Jewish canon, which was the same as we now have it.</p> <p>Second,</p> <p>These books were written not in Hebrew but in Greek during the "period of silence," between the end of Malachi and the beginning of the Christian era.</p> <p>Third,</p>

<p>Anyway, in the apocrapha, there is a writing called the Story of Judith.</p> <p>In Insiders View of Mormon Origins, Grant Palmer compared this apocraphal work called the Story of Judith with the story of Laban in the Book of Mormon.</p> <p>Here's how it plays out.</p> <p>Judith (of the apocrapha) and Nephi (of the Book of Mormon) are both servants of God.</p> <p>Judith encounters Holofernes who seeks to destroy God's people.</p> <p>Nephi encounters Laban who is also antithetical to the good of the people(interestingly enough the name Laban is found in the apocraphal book</p>	<p>The contents of the books themselves show that they were no part of Scripture. The Old Testament Apocrypha consists of fourteen books, the chief of which are the Books of the Maccabees (which, by the way, has the name Nephi in it), the Books of Esdras, the Book of Wisdom, the Book of Baruch, the Book of Esther, Ecclesiasticus, Tobit, Judith, etc.</p> <p>The New Testament Apocrypha consists of a very extensive literature, which bears distinct evidences of its non-apostolic origin, and is pretty shameful relative to the rest of the word.</p>
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of Judith!)

Okay . . .

Both Judith and Nephi leave or enter the city by night, both find Holofernes and Laban on the ground drunk or asleep with wine.

Then both Judith and Nephi take their respective target by the hair and cut off their head with their own swords.

Then both take the dead mens possessions and when they return to their people there is rejoicing.

Finally, both celebrate this success by beheading by offering burnt offerings to the Lord.

The evidence isn't just mounting, my brothers and sisters, it's overwhelming.

It should be more than apparent by now – especially if you have watched all of this years shows – that something is very suspect in the supposed translation of the Book of Mormon.

Remember, I'm not saying the Book doesn't teach some good Christian principles through a moral narrative. I'm saying that the story of it's origins are categorically fraudulent and that would make the rest of Joseph's claims worthy of abandonment.

Why would I want you to abandon Joseph Smith? Because Jesus calls.

He lived and died for you.

He is the complete author and finisher of your faith.

	He is ALL you need to have peace, hope, salvation or eternal life.
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The Book of Mormon

~ Part 6 of 7

(May 8, 2007)

A number of people have wanted to know our opinion of the recently aired PBS program called "The Mormons."

I was only able to watch some of the first half but had the rest described to me by other viewers.

I think that the piece was visually stunning and that it offered some admissions that have not typically been offered by the LDS community – like Daniel Peterson of BYU admitting that JS peered into a seer stone in a hat to translate the Book of Mormon.

I just wish they would have been as forthcoming about everything LDS instead of just admitting a little.

When I was a kid we used to drive to Mexico and smuggle fireworks back through the border.

We learned very early on that a little confession is better than total denial when you're trying to pull a con.

So we'd get to the border and the border patrol would ask: "Do you have any fireworks in your vehicle?"

With a look of surprise on our face we would say, "Yes, we do. Is that bad?"

They would ask for them and after confiscating them they would let us go – not aware that our bumpers were lined thousands more.

The point is, admitting to some fault

<p>goes a long way in making people believe everything else is all right.</p> <p>I saw this in the documentary.</p> <p>Fifty years ago you would have NEVER heard a member of the church admit to Joseph using a stone in a hat to translate the Book of Mormon.</p> <p>The internet won't let them deny it any longer.</p> <p>Fifty years ago you would have never seen an apostle apologizing for the murders at Mountain Meadows.</p> <p>Bit by bit, they admit to having the fireworks, all the while concealing the fact that they are sitting on a powder keg of information that once admitted to will blow the thing to smithereens.</p> <p>In the end, The Mormons documentary did more to help make Mormonism acceptable than to reveal it or change it.</p> <p>That is certainly unfortunate.</p>	
<p>Recently and over the course of our ministry I've received some emails regarding the disappointment I must be to my family. How I have "disgraced my parents and siblings," and "ed my wife and children astray."</p> <p>When I hear these things I think of the Lord speaking to His disciples as recorded in Matthew 10:37-38</p>	<p>It reads:</p> <p><i>"He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."</i></p>

	<p><i>And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.”</i></p> <p>When I was born-again, I saw for the first time the allegiance Jesus deserves in my life.</p> <p>And while I love and appreciate my parents for what they have done for me, and my wife for what she does and has endured, they are not my Lord nor Sovereign King – Jesus is.</p> <p>He has every whit of my devotion and love and allegiance.</p> <p>A wonderful result of this allegiance is the fact that when I love the Lord with all my heart, I am able to love my parents and wife all the more in return.</p> <p>If my parents priorities are not Him, I reject their priorities without one whit of shame.</p> <p>If my wife’s priorities are not Him, it does not change my total dedication to Him in the least.</p> <p>Additionally, verse thirty eight is important in this sense as it says:</p> <p><i>And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.</i></p> <p>“<i>Taking up the cross</i>” is a metaphor for being ready and willing to die for the cause, but the additional “<i>and follow after me</i>” let’s us know that the cause must be Him – not a church or a father, or mother, or children, or job or wife – we take up our cross and follow Him.</p> <p>The teenagers and young adults today have an online community system known as “face book” and “my space.”</p>
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	<p>In my space kids post their personal profiles and other things that describe them and their interests.</p> <p>My daughter and I did a little experiment. We went through a looked at the My Space for all the LDS kids we could think of.</p> <p>When it came to the most important thing in their life, the LDS kids put “Church.”</p> <p>Not one of them put Jesus.</p> <p>Conversely, when we examined the Christian kids we knew, not ONE of them put church, but all of them put Jesus or The Lord or God.</p> <p>There is a mighty big difference between taking heat – bearing your cross for belonging to a certain “Church” and bearing your Cross as it relates directly to your following Jesus.</p> <p>It’s the difference between religion and a relationship with the Lord.</p> <p>The first might make your life a little better, but the latter will make your death glorious.</p> <p>I hope this helps.</p>
<p>How about we begin tonight with a little quiz, eh? Eh?</p> <p>Let’s play . . . the Name Game! Woooooo Woooooooo!</p> <p><i>Question # 1</i></p> <p>True or False?</p>	

In the 1830 edition of the Book of Mormon the hill Cumorah was spelled Camorah?

Answer? TRUE

Why is this significant? There were maps printed and available in Joseph Smith's day that showed a chain of islands called the Camaros Islands and guess what the capital city of the Camaros Islands was called . . . Moroni!

Hmmmmm the name game.

Question #2

What two things do the following words have in common?

Alpha, Angola, Antipas, Antipus, Archeantus, Ezias, Jonas, Judea, Omega, Timothy, and Zenos?

Answers?

First, they are ALL found in the Book of Mormon.

Second, they are all Greek names, which chronologically should not and could not be in the Book of Mormon if it was legit.

Having Greek names in the Book of Mormon would be like Moses including a Brittany Spears song in Genesis.

Highly improbable.

Question #3

Are the twelve apostles in the Book of Mormon similar to the twelve apostles in the Bible?

Answer: Yes. How?

There were three pairs of New Testament Apostles who shared the same name:

Simon Peter and
Simon the Canaanite.

James the son of Alphaeus and
James the son of Zebedee.

And Judas the brother of James and
Judas Iscariot, the betrayer.

Question #4:

What significance could these actual geographical locations - which were all located within 200 miles of Joseph Smith's home - play in the construction of the Book of Mormon?



Lehigh Valley, PA
Oneida, NY
Angolah, NY
Morgantown, PA
Jacobsburg, PA
Alma, Quebec
Shiloh, OH
Kiskiminitas River, OH
Morin, Quebec
Sherbrooke, Quebec
Tecumseh, Quebec
Ripley, Maine

Well, guess what? In the Book of Mormon we have the same situation among the "apostles:"

Jonas and Jonas

Mathoni and Mathoniha (I love the little "ha" additions) and . . .

Kumen and Kumenonhi

A coincidence? A divine pattern? Or just one more evidence of plagiarism?

(hmmmmmm) the name game.

Answers?

The significance is in their similarity to people and places identified in the Book of Mormon itself.

Lehi
Onidah
Angola
Morianton
Jacobugath
Alma
Shilom
Kishkumen
Moron
Shurr
Teacum
Ripliancum

	<p>Oh, the fun never ends with this book, does it?</p> <p>I look forward to the day when we see an LDS apostle in a documentary say:</p> <p>“We are truly sorry that we ever promoted the Book of Mormon over the Bible. It is a book of fiction which we at one time embraced as an authentic translation from an ancient record. Our whole attention is now upon the Bible as the true and living Word of God.”</p>
<p>But enough of the name game.</p> <p>But hey! Let’s look at yet another source Joseph surely borrowed from in composing the BOM.</p> <p>Hang on to yer bonnets, chillins! The wagon is a headin downhill!</p>	
<p>In 1823, when Joseph Smith was a seventeen year old boy, a Pastor named Ethan Smith (no relation) wrote a fictional book titled: <i>View of the Hebrews; or the Tribes of Israel in America</i>.</p> <p>From 1821 to 1826, the author of the book, was pastor to Oliver Cowdery and his family in Poultney, Vermont.</p> <p>In case you didn’t know, Oliver Cowdery was a scribe to Joseph Smith during the translation of the Book of Mormon.</p> <p>He was also a witness to the golden plates (which we are going to discuss next week). And he was also Joseph Smith’s cousin!</p> <p>View of the Hebrews was popular, and</p>	

<p>was distributed and talked about all throughout New York and parts of New England.</p> <p>A second edition of it was printed in 1825.</p> <p>There was a great deal of interest in the origins, customs, religion and life of the Indians during these years and Ethan Smith collected much of this information from two or three dozen different sources and reconfigured it into a book.</p> <p>Now an early church historian by the named of BH Roberts (who, by the way, is quite underrated and ignored by the LDS Church today because of his views) did a comparative study of the Book of Mormon and View of the Hebrews. His findings were compiled in a book called:</p> <p><i>Studies of the Book of Mormon.</i></p> <p>You tell me if the findings could be reasonably considered a coincidence or if they are another indication that Joseph did not translate the Book from an ancient record on golden plates but instead took information from other sources and used it to compile the book modern Mormonism calls “the most correct book on the face of the earth.”</p> <p>Ready? I’m reading from Studies, which is included in Grant Palmer’s book An Insider’s View of Mormon Origins.</p> <p>(See pages 60 – 64)</p>	
	The Book of Mormon has been

	<p>presented to the world as a translation of God's Word from an ancient record written on golden plates.</p> <p>Over the last six weeks we have shown you that the framework and the contents of the Book of Mormon originated from a variety of external sources which have been authenticated and verified.</p> <p>Since 1830, the LDS church – from it's leaders, to its missionaries, and its members – have used the book of Mormon as bait to get people to buy into Joseph Smith, who later introduced temple rites, plural marriage, and some incomprehensibly humanistic descriptions of God.</p>
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The Book of Mormon

~ Part 7 of 7

(May 15, 2007)

Special thanks to Russell B for the following quote from President Gordon B. Hinckley:

(as found in Four Cornerstones of Faith, The First Presidency Message, Ensign Magazine February 2004 – page 6)

Listen very, very carefully to this statement. What it says and doesn't say is amazing.

Speaking of the Book of Mormon GBH wrote:

"The evidence for its truth, for its validity in a world that is prone to demand evidence, lies not in archeology or anthropology, though these may be helpful to some. It lies not in word research or historical analysis, though these may be confirmatory. The evidence for its truth and validity lies within the covers of the book itself. The test of its truth lies in reading it. It is a book of God. Reasonable people may sincerely question its origin; but those who have read it prayerfully have come to know by a power beyond their natural senses that it is true, that it contains the word of God, that it outlines saving truths of the everlasting gospel, that it "came forth by the gift and power of God? to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ."

Let's examine this quote a minute because I believe the LDS prophet is greasing the tracks for the Book of Mormon to ultimately be accepted on

different grounds than it is today.

Rest assured, if Mormonism had ANY substantiated physical evidence for the Book of Mormon you would be reading very different quotes from the prophet.

But they don't. And so he promotes knowing the book is true by "a power that goes beyond our senses."

This is a very treacherous realm.

I predict – not prophesy – that Mormonism will, in time, and through statements like this, begin to sort of smirk at the idea that people once believed the book came from golden plates, sort of like they smirk today at the Adam-God doctrine, blacks and the priesthood, or that the only way to become a God is through polygamy.

Listen, again, to what he is saying here:

"The evidence for its truth, for its validity in a world that is prone to demand evidence, lies not in archeology or anthropology, though these may be helpful to some."

(Discuss)

First of all, there is no archeology or anthropology for the Book of Mormon that "could be helpful to some" so this inference is misleading from the start.

He says . . .

"It lies not in word research or historical analysis, though these may be confirmatory."

Again, there is no word research or historical analysis that can confirm the

Book of Mormon so this is just another empty attempt to infer that there is!

He continues . . .

“The evidence for its truth and validity lies within the covers of the book itself. The test of its truth lies in reading it.”

There is a very important premise being made here. Let me explain it by talking about how God works.

God did not provide us His word through some totally mystical or absolute metaphysical revelations. All of God’s revelations are couched in reality.

Abraham did have progeny.
There is a Jerusalem.
Jesus was a man with a body.
Paul did speak at Ephesus.

God provides humanity with supportive evidences to our faith because He knows the human brain needs reason. Additionally, if His word was not based in reality but only in strict metaphysics, than any charlatan in the world could step in and make similar claims to God!

Imaging, for a moment, that God gave us a Bible that was from another planet. And it suddenly plopped down out of the sky in the desert where somebody finds it and prints it.

Not only would it be difficult for sane people who are hard-wired for reason to believe in it, it would also allow for anyone and everyone to claim that the book they represent came from God too!

Koran? By revelation in a cave to Mohammed.

Philosophy? From the minds of men to paper.

Mein Kampf? Hitler could even claim divine origin under these rules.

Every one of the authors could say that you can know their book is true by how you feel when you read it, right?

This is one of the reasons God gave us His Word from the streams of reality. Actuality. Breathing people from actual places.

GBH continues:

"It is a book of God."

This may not seem like much to you but to me this statement, coming from a source where men gauge their comments very carefully, is a bombshell.

GBH didn't say "It is a book FROM God" he said, *"It is a book OF God."* HUGE, HUGE DIFFERENCE. But the statement is just vague enough to make authentication of it impossible.

GBH ended the statement with:

"Reasonable people may sincerely question its origin; but those who have read it prayerfully have come to know by a power beyond their natural senses that it is true, that it contains the word of God, that it outlines saving truths of the everlasting gospel, that it "came forth by the gift and power of God? to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that

Jesus is the Christ."

In the end, I believe the following is occurring and is going to continue to occur within Mormonism:

Slowly and carefully, you will begin to read more ambiguous statements from "the brethren" regarding the origins of the Book of Mormon.

Pictures and stories about "golden plates" will begin to appear less and less publicly and LDS leaders will continue to make statements like "*it contains the word of God*," it "*outlines saving truths*" and "*came forth by the gift and power of God*" as public resistance and scholarly evidence against the Hill Cumorah fantasy mounts.

Also buried in this written statement from President Gordon B Hinkley is a little thing I like to call "Mormon Innuendo."

Recall that the prophet said:

*"The evidence for (the Book of Mormon's) truth, for its validity . . . lies not in archeology or anthropology . . . lies not in word research or historical analysis . . . but
"the test of its truth lies in reading it."*

"those who have read it prayerfully have come to know by a power beyond their natural senses that it is true."

"Mormon Innuendo" is sort of a romanticisd "wink-wink" "you-know-its true, you KNOW its true" approach to Mormonism.

<p>Where Hebrews 11:1 says</p> <p><i>“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”</i></p> <p>But Gordon B Hinckley, speaking in Mormon Innuendo, says that “things not seen is evidence!” He calls it</p> <p><i>“a power beyond natural senses.”</i></p> <p>While this may be the way Joseph Smith established the LDS Church and Mormonism continues to operate in this way today, God does not operate in a vacuum, but is gracious and manifest in reality.</p>	
	<p>Why is this important?</p> <p>Tonight we finish our examination of the Book of Mormon.</p> <p>When Joseph Smith completed it, he says he allowed two gatherings of witnesses to “see” the gold plates.</p> <p>There was a gathering of three witnesses:</p> <p>Oliver Cowdery David Whitmer Martin Harris</p> <p>And a gathering of eight Witnesses:</p> <p>Christian Whitmer Jacob Whitmer Peter Whitmer, Jr. John Whitmer Joseph Smith Sr. Hyrum Smith Samuel Smith And Hiram Page.</p> <p>All of them men.</p>

	<p>All eleven witnesses either came from the Smith family and/or were related to each other by marriage, with the exception of Martin Harris.</p> <p>All believed in the mystical and magical practice of “second sight” which is a 19th century way of describing “<i>a power beyond natural senses.</i>”</p> <p>Regarding the three special witnesses, Martin Harris was described as “<i>a visionary fanatic,</i>” and a man who “<i>pretended to see things.</i>” Lorenzo Saunders, a friend to Harris said “<i>Martin was a good citizen, a man who would do just as he would agree with you, but he was a great man for seeing spooks.</i>”</p> <p>One thing he saw with his second sight was the Golden Plates before Joseph “showed” them to him.</p> <p>According to Dan Vogels Early Mormon Documents (another outstanding book of reference material) Martin Harris said (prior to the supposed “witness” experience) that</p> <p><i>“I saw them (the plates) just as dictinctly as I see any thing around me, though at the time they were covered over with a cloth.”</i></p> <p>Oliver Cowdery, a second of the three witnesses, was a visionary and learned the art of “divining” from his father in Vermont. Remember, Oliver was Joseph Smith’s cousin. According to Dean C Jessee, editor of the Papers of Joseph Smith, Oliver also claims to have “seen” the plates in vision before</p>
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	<p>he ever even met Joseph Smith.</p> <p>“A power beyond natural senses!”</p> <p>Even the third of the three witnesses – David Whitmer – claims to have seen the plates being carried by the angel Moroni across the plains in a gunny sack before the angel disappeared as quickly as he arrived.</p> <p>So of the three witnesses, all three:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were mystical and magical in their world view. • Were personally invested in one way or another in the coming forth of the Book of Mormon, and • all had “seen” the plates in some sort of vision PRIOR to viewing them as witnesses. <p>The very language of the three witnesses testimony – which is neither dated nor gives a location of the event nor identifies the author of the statement, speaks in the language of Mormon Innuendo:</p> <p>(READ TESTIMONY)</p> <p>Perhaps the most revealing aspect of the three witnesses signed testimony is what they said about their observances later.</p> <p>Martin Harris later admitted:</p> <p><i>“I never saw the golden plates, only in a visionary or entranced state”</i></p> <p>When asked by someone else if he really saw the plates he said: <i>“I did not see them as I see that pencil case, yet I saw them with the eye of faith.”</i></p>
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	<p>David Whitmer spoke with a bit more “Innuendo” when describing his witness.</p> <p>In 1885, a young LDS attorney spoke with Whitmer at length about his testimony of the plates. He said Whitmer . . .</p> <p><i>“was somewhat spiritual in his explanations. He was not as materialistic in his description as I had wished.”</i></p> <p>Zenas Gurley, an RLDS apostle asked Whitmer if the witnesses actually touched the real metal and Whitmer said, “We did not.”</p> <p>The testimony of the three witnesses says:</p> <p>. . . that we held and saw the plates . . .</p> <p>I suggest to you, ever so strongly, that this holding of the plates was “<i>with spiritual hands.</i>”</p>
<p>The testimony of the Eight Witnesses seems to be more material in nature.</p> <p>It reads: (page 202-203)</p> <p>We’ve talked about the Joseph Smith family and their extreme magic world view.</p> <p>All of the “Whitmer witnesses” believed in seer stones, and dowsing sticks, as tools to “see” and discern things.</p> <p>Hiram Page, the only one of the eight witnesses without the surname Smith or</p>	

Whitmer, was also “visionary.”

But BYU Professor Dean Jessee, in his “Papers of Joseph Smith,” acknowledges that Page also used a seer stone for hunting buried treasure.

So here are the eight witnesses. All mystics, all related. Their collective testimony, again given without a date, author, or location (but in all probability is was penned by Joseph) states that:

“Joseph Smith showed them the plates.”

That *“they did handle them with their hands”* and *“saw the engravings thereon”* that they had *“seen and hefted”* them.

Seems pretty straight-forward, doesn’t it?

But Palmer reports in *Insiders View* that:

(see quip from 204)

William Parrish also heard Martin Harris say that none of the eleven men examined physical records.

He stated:

“Martin Harris, one of the subscribing witnesses, has come out at last, and says he never saw the plates, from which the book purports to have been translated, except in vision and he further says that any man who says he has seen them in any other way is a liar, Joseph not excepted.”

Only three of the eight witnesses ever said that they touched and handled the

<p>plates – Hyrum Smith, Samuel Smith, and Hiram Page . . . but Hiram Page added</p> <p><i>“I handled those plates; there were fine engravings on both sides . . . they were shown to me by a supernatural power.”</i></p> <p>As with almost everything else in historic Mormonism, the three and eight witnesses to the golden plates provide a flat out questionable accounting, where most of them, in the end, admitted that they saw the plates with, as Gordon B Hinckley would promote, <i>“a power beyond their natural senses.”</i></p> <p>I find great irony in the fact that on the one hand, Mormonism has long used the so-called testimony of the eleven witnesses to promote and support material faith in the Book of Mormon, but on the other hand is more and more having to rely upon the very same tactics and proofs Joseph used to convince others of his visions from the start – imagination.</p>	
	<p>So we end our seven week analysis of the Book of Mormon.</p> <p>Before we began I asked you to ask yourself “Is it reasonable to believe that the information we will discuss came from ancient golden plates or was it borrowed from a contemporary source of Joseph Smith?”</p>

The Priesthood Transfer: The Real Deal or Sham

(May 22, 2007)

I'd like to take a minute and repeat a story I shared on the show sometime last year.

Hopefully it will help explain why I do what I do but perhaps more importantly it will illustrate why I use the methods I use.

In Huntington Beach where I grew up (and live even to this day) there was a summer program called Junior Lifeguards . . .

Ocean and first aid skills
Lifesaving techniques
Physical fitness.

The top echelon of the Junior lifeguards was an elite group called the captains. They are the kids who in the following summers would be eligible to become ocean lifeguards.

When I was 15, the leader of Captains was a long time legend by the name of Ray Bray. (His assistants name was Mike Eich).

Mr. Bray was known to be ferocious, attacking, and a demanding to the point of near brutality.

He had a no holds barred approach to getting inside a person and cleaning house.

One summer afternoon, after I had been a pupil of Mr. Bray's without too much difficulty, he sort of nudged me and asked:

	<p>Do you wanna go swim the pier?”</p> <p>“Sure,” I said. And we headed across the sand toward the water.</p> <p>(Tell story)</p>
<p>In the LDS Mission Training Center, they used to teach an illustration to help missionaries explain to investigators the need for having the proper authority to act in God’s name.</p> <p>It went something like this:</p>	<p>(Deliver illustration)</p> <p>“Suppose you are driving down the street and suddenly an unmarked car speeds up to you and shouts for you to pull over to the side of the road . . .”</p> <p>(Tell it)</p> <p>Mormonism today emphatically claims to be the only true church on the face of the earth and that it has the rightful authority – the priesthood authority – to act in God’s name by virtue of a “direct line.”</p> <p>Maintaining that there was a world-wide apostasy where the authority to act in God’s name was completely taken from the earth, Joseph Smith announced that the Aaronic priesthood authority was bestowed upon Him and Oliver Cowdery through an angelic visitations of John the Baptist, and that the Melchizedek priesthood was later given to him and Oliver Cowdery by the angelic visitation of Peter, James, and John.</p> <p>I am not going to address why such a priesthood is neither viable or necessary in</p>

<p>The LDS Church today has an “official” story about the priesthood – the Aaronic and Melchizedek - being restored to the earth.</p> <p>Long story short, they say Joseph and Oliver Cowdery went to the woods to pray about baptism while the Book of Mormon was being translated and while praying about it John the Baptist appeared and laid hands on their heads and gave them with the Aaronic Priesthood.</p> <p>In an unknown amount of days later, Smith claims Peter, James, and John appeared to him and Cowdery and bestowed the Melchizedek priesthood upon them too.</p> <p>Simply put, the Aaronic priesthood is considered a “lesser priesthood” and is generally active in the temporal affairs of the LDS Church.</p>	<p>the Body of Christ today. Our shows last December (#40 and #41) examined this angle at length.</p> <p>What I am going to examine is the historical claims of this priesthood restoration and, ONCE AGAIN, show how these claims – like the claims of the first vision, the Book of Mormon, and the nature of God – were progressive in nature and were formulated over a period of time and retroactively.</p> <p>What is the “priesthood” in the LDS church and what does it mean?</p> <p>Maybe these comments by members of the First Presidency regarding the Priesthood will facilitate understanding:</p> <p>(See quotes)</p>
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The Melchizedek priesthood, or the higher priesthood, is generally involved in the spiritual matters in the LDS Church.

Now again – and for clarities sake – I am not going to spend time arguing the fact that the priesthood was not transferable to men or that it is wholly unnecessary since the Bible teaches us that Jesus is our great and final high Priest.

But let me argue the legitimacy of the LDS historical accounts of angelic visitations in the first place.

This is important both to the authentication of Joseph's claims, and to the fact that Mormonism has no more direct-line authority than any other protestant group on earth.

My advance thanks and recognition for the work and research expertise of Grant Palmer, Dan Vogel, Utah Lighthouse Ministries, and Dean C Jessee in the areas of Church history relative to these priesthood claims.

Shortly after the Book of Mormon was published, the Church of Christ (which later became . . .) was organized on April 6th 1830.

Prior to this official event, both Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery had baptized each other in the Susquehanna River.

They also baptized Joseph's younger brother Samuel.

In a preliminary draft of the account, Lucy Mack Smith, Joseph's mother recalls what led up to these baptisms:

(Read account)

The authority to baptize, based on this account, was given through the Urim and Thummim, and by no other means.

Shortly thereafter, when Joseph and Oliver were at David Whitmer's home, they received additional authority, but were told that a meeting would be held where they could ordain each other using this new found power.

Joseph Smith himself described how this additional authority was received. Said he:

(see quote)

So they received the calling to ordain each other and they did the ordaining at the first Church meeting on April 6th 1830.

But there was no mention of any angels stepping in and giving them the authority!

Again - NOW LISTEN -

In being called to baptize one another, and then baptizing of each other, AND in authorized to ordain each other elders so as to "give the gift of the Holy Ghost," no angelic ordinations are mentioned anywhere . . . at all . . . until years later.

In the Book of Commandments, chapter

	<p>24:1-12 – which was a precursor book to the Doctrine and Covenants – an outline is given for what qualified Joseph Smith as having the authority to do the things he did. It said:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) he had received a remission of his sins. 2) he had received a call to this holy work by an angel who had given him the means to translate the BOM, 3) that an angel showed the book to others, 4) that the Church of Christ was organized on April 6th 1830, 5) that on this same day, JS and Oliver C ordained each other, having been “called of God to do so, and 6) by these great witnesses all will be judged. <p>Still no mention of an angelic visitor named John the Baptist or Peter, James, and John stepping in and transferring any supposed authority by the laying on of hands.</p> <p>In fact, there are numerous biblical, Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenant, and Pearl of Great Price evidences that provide a standard Christian answer for authority – the person must be called by God to do the work!</p> <p>It was God’s call from the burning bush to Moses, and His Spirit, through Aaron, called Aaron. The <i>voice</i> of God called Samuel, Saul, and David as kings.</p> <p>Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Zechariah, were called by the Lord in dreams and visions.</p> <p>So was Lehi in the BOM!</p> <p>Alma in the BOM was called by God – there was no direct line of authority from any angels. Read the Book of Mosiah if</p>
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you don't believe me!

Grant Palmer point out:

"There are periods during which ordinations occur in an orderly succession, but when the chain is broken, another prophet is called by God's voice or by His Spirit to begin the cycle anew."

This is the same with any legitimate Christian growth.

Chuck Smith left denominationalism and followed the Lord. The Calvary Chapel movement today does ordain people, but the call is always from the Lord and if God wants to cut Calvary off at the knees and start a fresh work, He'll do it!

Even in the oft recited D&C, it reads that if a person has desires to serve God he is "called to the work."

One of the witnesses to the Book of Mormon, David Whitmer, when interviewed in 1885 about different things in early LDS history said:

(Read quote)

William E McLellin, who did leave the Church, said later:

"I joined the church in 1831. For years I never heard of John the Baptist ordaining Joseph and Oliver. I heard not of James, Peter, and John doing so."

He later continued:

"I heard Joseph tell his experience of his ordination (by Cowdery) and the organization of the church, probably, more than twenty-times, to persons who, near the rise of the church, wished to know and

	<p>Because, like so many other very important issues on Mormonism, they were added to the script!</p> <p>But why, since it was a biblical and Book of Mormon precedent to have people receive authority without angelic visitation, why would Joseph and Oliver begin to push these myths?</p> <p>Several key factors:</p> <p>First, Joseph made things up as he went along. Imagination can go a long, long way in creating unity.</p> <p>Have you ever been involved in a project of some-sort and when your deeply into it realize you have made a seemingly unfixable error and then suddenly there appears a solution that not only fixes the mistake, but fits remarkably well and goes completely unnoticed?</p> <p>I think this play a part into explaining why and how.</p> <p>Second, the early Church was facing some devastating events relative to Joseph's credibility.</p> <p>In 1834 E.D. Howe's scathing indictment against Mormonism (called Mormonism Unveiled) was coming out.</p> <p>Joseph Smith's in-laws had issued signed affidavits about his treasure digging and motives to start Mormonism.</p> <p>Zion's camp - a miserable but somewhat unifying experience for the Saints – tested many with regard to their allegiance to the Prophet, and</p> <p>A group in Kirtland Ohio had denounced Joseph Smith as a fraud for administering</p>
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	<p>“under pretense of Divine Authority.”</p> <p>This Kirtland group retained a private investigator named Hurlbut to look into Joseph’s past with the hope of bringing him down from “<i>the high station which he pretends to occupy.</i>”</p> <p>Hurlbut traveled all over the place and collected all kinds of affidavits against Joseph Smith and the image of the man was being tarnished.</p> <p>History shows that when times got rough, Joseph saw more heavenly beings.</p> <p>Hurlbut toured around and sharing the information he discovered about Smith.</p> <p>In October of 1834, Oliver Cowdery, with the assistance of Joseph, wrote a rebuttal of Hurlbut’s findings in the Messenger and Advocate, and in addition to defending the prophet, introduced the idea of a nameless angel appearing and ordaining them.</p> <p>Not long thereafter, John the Baptist was assigned this important work. At the very same time, a declaration of Peter, James, and John was added to Doctrine and Covenants 27:8-13.</p> <p>Joseph said in 1829 that he was called by the Spirit.</p> <p>In 1832 he mentioned that angels attended these events.</p> <p>In 1834-35 the details became more and more clear, contrary to human nature where details, with time become a bit muddled.</p> <p>In Joseph Smith’s mind, details, with time, become clearer and clearer.</p>
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	<p>The bottom-line on Mormonism and the direct-line of priesthood authority they claim to have?</p> <p>Evidence seems to indicate that a Mormon has absolutely no more right to act in the name of God than any true believer who has been called to the work.</p>
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(May 29, 2007)

The focus of this show has been from the beginning on religion.

Specifically, it has been geared toward comparing biblical Christianity with the doctrines and practices of present-day Mormonism.

Underlying almost everything we discuss here and in our ministry is God, and how men and women go about knowing Him according to the manual we embrace, the Bible.

It has become apparent that a natural outflow of our ministry has been meeting people who are interested in our “approach to religion.”

I’d like to speak to this subject for a minute.

If you’ve watched the show for any amount of time you are well aware that we are not overly fond of organized religion.

Religion in the Christian sense today is found along a whole spectrum of approaches, all of which include a variety of man-made constructs.

Anchoring each end of the spectrum are religions that are just riddled with what I call religiously insane notions.

On the right or conservative end, we usually discover very liturgical and legalistic churches that rely upon form, order, rules, rites, and dress codes to lead and guide their members lives.

Alathea Ministries has no use for such legalities, but readily acknowledges that they may provide something many people sincerely appreciate in their spiritual and/or religious walk.

At the other end of the spectrum, what people might call the liberal end, there are more and more churches which are known as “seeker- friendly and/or emergent churches.”

These too are also filled with man-made constructs, but these approaches lean toward a more care free and relaxed approach to Christianity.

Where liturgical churches tend to demand conformity to a set of man-made expectations (which are often tied to God and His will) “seeker friendly” churches these days have gone to the other extreme and don’t seem to demand or offer anything of true substance to those filling their seats.

Since Born-again Mormon began four years ago, and since we started airing these televised programs over the last 15 months, we’ve had not a few requests from people wanting to know what we think a church should look like.

This has been a long time coming, but we would like to publicly extend this invitation to you tonight:

	<p>That's right, we are planting a church.</p> <p>It will begin Sunday July 15th at from 9:15 until 10:15 at the Gateway plaza Cineplex in Downtown Salt Lake City.</p> <p>We invite you to "come and see."</p> <p>Let me take a few minutes this evening and address some issues relative to our intentions and approach.</p> <p>First of all, I didn't write Born-Again Mormon as a means to start a church. It was not my initial intention to pastor a Church.</p> <p>This will play greatly into the structure of what we call LORD'SWORD.</p> <p>Secondly, there are a number of very good churches out there in the world, churches that deserve your continued allegiance and support.</p> <p>We do not – <i>I repeat</i> – we do not want to steal anyone away from the Christian church they currently attend and appreciate here in Utah.</p> <p>Of course, we'll steal every Latter-day Saint we can, but that's another story.</p> <p>No, our ministry will continue to recommend churches in greater Utah area as we are able to scout them.</p> <p>Our website will continue to post the names of these churches to assist you in locating a church that suits you.</p> <p>The LORD'SWORD method of "religion"</p>
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<p>You may then wonder who we would like to see come to our church?</p> <p>Some pastors set their churches up to cater to the youth, some to the elderly community, some to the outcasts, and some to the already saved.</p> <p>The LORD'SWORD mission statement is to reach out to the lost, teach the Word of God, and serve the community.</p> <p>Reach, teach, and serve.</p> <p>Who do we hope to reach?</p> <p>Anyone who is searching for more, who is seeking to learn, and who does not want religion to rule their lives.</p> <p>We seek the seekers. The sinners. Those in bondage to the things of this world.</p> <p>"Come and see" if you have been religiously beat-up, are a victim of ecclesiastical abuse, or have been doctrinally fooled.</p> <p>"Come and see" if you believe something is "off" in your faith, in your heart, or in your life.</p>	<p>or "church" or whatever you want to call it is very different and will certainly not be for everyone – believe me.</p> <p>So please don't take this announcement as an attempt to recruit you from a church relationship that meets your current needs.</p>
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We do not care how you dress – suit and tie or pajamas.

We don't care what you do for a living – wealthy or an ex-con.

We don't care how you live today.

If you're a whore, come and see.

If you're a drug addict, alcoholic, pimp, or infidel . . . come and see.

If you are successful, worldly, materialistic, and vane, come and see.

Any person – every person is welcome.

Now what can you expect at LORD'SWORD?

Five things:

You can expect to have a peaceful time to worship your God through reasonable music and prayer.

You can expect to hear the Bible taught line by line and verse by verse – exegetically, inductively, and within context of the whole.

You can expect to have your children safely and lovingly cared for by screened people while you worship and learn.

And you can expect our weekly services to last no more than one hour.

That's it.

Oh, and you can also expect to sit in a comfortable seat in a climate controlled environment that is easy to access by foot, bike, car or taxi from anywhere in the greater Salt Lake area.

What should you not expect at Lord's Word.

Seeker friendly anything.

If you want mega-multi-media extravaganzas, emergent Church candles and darkness, hyper-charismatic manifestations, or power point presentations DON'T come and see.

Do not expect to find a ready made system for Christian counseling, social events, or group activities.

And if you're a coffee drinker, fill up with enough to last you for an hour somewhere else.

We seek to reach to those seeking, to teach those wanting to learn, and to send people out into the week who want to discover for themselves how to be in a Christian relationship with God and the world.

We don't want to become your social life, your intermediary to God, or your crutch for living.

We reach out to those searching.
We teach to those wanting to learn.
Hopefully, as people become equipped they will step out into the community and serve God as Christians.

Now, quickly, let's go to some FAQs:

Is Lord'sWord specifically going to cater to former-LDS?

No. Unlike this show, LORD'SWORD is dedicated to teaching the Word and providing a place for corporate worship and prayer.

We are LDS friendly, meaning we will not teach **against** Mormonism in our services but will teach **for** Christianity.

Where can I get directions, times, and other information about Lord'sWord?

www.lordsword.org

How do I volunteer to help?

What will you do with the teenagers?

We have a youth pastor (Marcus) moving to SLC this July who will take the teens into a separate theater and follow the same method for them as we do for the adults – 25 minutes prayer and worship, 35 minutes verse by verse presentation – except his will be geared toward the youth.

Children's ministry will be present from the get-go, but will adapt as necessary to needs and growth.

What about the worship? What will be the style?

Three elements will be utilized in the Worship of God:

<p>An amplified acoustic guitar-playing worship leader you, and the Spirit of God.</p> <p><i>What do you expect of me, as someone who attends LORD'SWORD? (By the way, we will never have memberships.)</i></p> <p>We invite you to bring a Bible to each service, but again, this is your choice.</p> <p>So there you have it, folks.</p> <p>First service: July 15th 2007 9:15 to 10:15 am</p> <p>Gateway 12 Cineplex</p> <p>If you would like to volunteer to help us usher, direct people, or care for children, please email us at</p> <p>contact@lordsword.org</p>	
<p>Before we move onto an examination of the Pearl of Great Price, which we will begin next week, I think it would be beneficial to sort of fill in the gaps with some information I've skipped or information that is rarely heard, taught, or even considered in Mormonism today.</p> <p>We mentioned last week that Joseph and Oliver organized the Church of Christ on April 6th of 1830.</p> <p>Prior to this, in 1827, while Joseph was working for the Stowell and Knight family's in a number of "visualization capacities," he returned home to make his annual visit to the Hill Cumorah as instructed.</p>	

Says LDS author Richard Bushman:

“While at home he told his mother about miss Emma Hale, who “would be my choice in preference to any other woman I have ever seen.”

Joseph became attracted to Emma Hale – who is described as being tall with dark hair - when he and his father Joseph Senior boarded at their home while on a treasure seeking expedition.

Emma's father was a noted hunter, and was friends with the Josiah Stowell, who headed up the mining venture which Joseph participated in using his visionary skills.

Emma's father was not supportive of treasure-digging, and when Joseph came to court Emma Hale and then ask for her hand, Mr. Hale said that “Joseph was a stranger, and followed a business that I could not approve.”

Speaking of Joseph, Emma told her son years later:

“My folks were bitterly opposed to him; and being importuned by your father, aided by Mr. Stowell, who urged me to marry him, and preferring to marry him to any other man I knew, I consented.”

When they eloped, Joseph was 21 and Emma was 22.

The couple moved to Manchester where Joseph farmed with his father. The following summer Emma wrote her parents and asked if she could come home and gather some of her things from them.

Father Hale invited her to come and collect them and she, Joseph, and neighbor Peter Ingersoll (who obviously knew the Smith's well and provided much by way of first hand information about them) went to Harmony PA, to retrieve the items.

This would be the first time Joseph and Emma would see her father as a married couple.

Mr. Hale met them tearfully, rebuking Joseph for stealing his daughter and said, according to Bushman, that he "would rather follow her to her grave than have her married to Joseph."

Joseph then assured his father-in-law that his "treasure seeking days were over, and that he was willing to work hard."

Hale must have been convinced because he offered the Smith couple a place to stay on the Hale farm in order to get a start in life.

Because of time I am not going to share the overabundance of information – pro and con –that has to do with Joseph and Emma's life while Joseph supposedly translated the plates.

But the books are there if you want to read them.

Also, when talking about the golden plates, I neglected to mention that Emma went with Joseph to collect them and that the story that is obtained from the various accounts of

them getting them is murky at best.

Additionally, and as a means to catch us up to the time just passed the time where the Church was organized in 1830, let me note that Joseph began recording some “revelations” he received from God around 1828.

By 1830 he had compiled two dozen of them.

In 1833 these revelations were published as the Book of Commandments.

Now that is a title most Latter-day Saints sort of say without thinking too much about it – the Book of Commandments. And this book later became the Doctrine and Covenant which is embraced by the LDS Church today as scripture.

But think about the title of this book for a moment, the BOOK OF COMMANDMENTS!

Commandments from whom?

The mind of God?

Satan?

The mind of Joseph Smith?

I think it takes an exorbitant amount of chutzpa for a person to claim they have commandments for people that have come from God.

God!

“God wants you to sell your land and give the proceeds to me!”

“God says you must repent, obey, to

marry me, or give me your wife to marry!"

Even if the things a person was saying were actually from God, it could be tough to say them.

Remember Moses and Pharaoh?

I've always wondered what kind of attitude a person would have to have who was claiming to be speaking for God, but wasn't?

What would someone be like who used God's name to manipulate others and what would the final product be of a group of people who embraced him or her.

I think that for a person to have the temerity to say, "I the Lord command . . . " when the Lord did NOT command, they would have to have several powerful characteristics present in their personality.

First, there could be no fear of the Lord. Speaking for God when God hasn't spoken is taking the name of God in vane.

It's a biggie.

The Word says the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

The idea that God was once a man displays no fear of the Lord.

To claim that God was a created being, that God cannot create something out of nothing, that God is subject to eternal laws and principles is to not fear the Lord.

The claim that men can become a God is to show absolutely no fear of the Lord.

To me the notion that people must do certain things to appease God or earn their exaltation proves no fear of the Lord.

Institutions that continue to justify organizational deception shows no fear of the Lord.

Doctrines that add requirements on for exaltation have no fear of the Lord.

Another characteristic that would have to exist in the heart of a brazen “commandment-giver” would be some extreme self-confidence.

In such a man would be impudence, an antinomian drive (disguised as “new revelation”), and a pervasive notion that they have accomplished something nobody else on earth has been able to do!

I think we would find in them all sorts of doctrines and practices aimed at elevating “MAN.”

The oft-quoted line by Joseph Smith seems to summarize such attitudes:

In Joseph Smith’s time – like our time today – there were many people who claimed to speak for God.

<p>Ann Lee, a shaker leader, claimed to have revelations from God.</p> <p>Ellen G White did too.</p> <p>But Joseph's revelations were somewhat unique because they "sounded" like biblical revelations:</p> <p>"Hearken, O ye in habitants of the earth, I the Lord speak, seeing all the ways of men, hearing their every cry from my throne in yonder heavens."</p> <p>The key to them, however, is in the reading. Where some are passable as revelations from God, others are flat out manipulations from the heart of a man striving.</p> <p>Anyway, we'll get to these as well move on over the next few months.</p>	
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Pearl of Great Price

~ Part 1 of 2

(June 5, 2007)

In February of 1831, Elizabeth Ann Whitney, LDS convert, said that Joseph Smith walked into her husbands store in Kirtland, Ohio and stated:

I am "Joseph the Prophet."

This was an easier claim for him to make in Kirtland than in Palmyra, where some people considered him just a poor and slothful charlatan with a magic rock.

After establishing the Church of Christ in 1830, the group – with copies of the Book of Mormon in hand – sought to build the kingdom in and around Joseph's stomping grounds in the state of New York.

And though missionaries were sent out, the churches growth was slow and difficult - as would be expected. Few seemed to care or believe in the restorationist's claims and/or the sacred record that was produced by the same person and peep-stone that "saw" buried treasures.

According to History of the Church, volume I, things started looking better when Joseph received word that a communal society of religionists in Kirtland, Ohio had read the Book of Mormon, believed it, and that the leader, his family, and several hundred followers had "converted themselves."

Before long, Joseph centralized or relocate the Church to Kirtland, Ohio.

	<p>Missionaries went west to preach to the Indians, and returned and reported that Missouri was an unspoiled land of beauty.</p> <p>Soon the prophet received revelation of the Lord that Missouri was to be Zion, the site of the City of the New Jerusalem.</p> <p>Because of this revelation, the idea – which used to be talked about a lot more back in the day in the Church – that at some point all the faithful Saints would receive notice to drop everything and make a pilgrimage to Jackson County, Missouri.</p> <p>Anyway, after this revelation was received, the Mormons established a colony in Jackson County, Missouri.</p> <p>So, we have Joseph Smith and the Church in Kirtland, Ohio and then we have a group of LDS who established themselves in Jackson County, Missouri – a place Joseph said would be the New Jerusalem.</p> <p>Mormonism was starting to get some legs.</p> <p>People began to get curious. They began to flock (so to speak) to see the man who called himself “the prophet.”</p> <p>Out in Jackson, County Missouri, things started getting heated up between the locals and the Saints.</p> <p>Some of the persecution may have been justified – there is ALWAYS two stories to every side of an issue.</p> <p>But some of it may have occurred out of envy, and jealousy, and even fear.</p>
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<p>Matthew 5:39 . . . <i>resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.</i></p> <p>Luke 6:29 <i>And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also.</i></p> <p>Proverbs 24:29 <i>Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me: I will render to the man according to his work.</i></p>	<p>Mark Twain said:</p> <p>“Fewer things are harder to put up with than a good example,” and it is quite possible the Missourians just got tired of seeing so much unity and progress among the Saints.</p> <p>Whatever the reason, as winter reigned, angry mobs drove the Saints from their homes in Jackson County.</p> <p>This infuriated Joseph. I’m sure it even infuriated God!</p> <p>But in typical fashion, Joseph then claimed to receive a revelation from God that he was to gather an “army” together from the men in Ohio, and to march into Jackson County to reclaim it.</p> <p>Joseph said that the Lord promised them “mighty victory over their enemies.”</p> <p>So Joseph formed a group and they began to march to Missouri. They called the group and trek Zion’s Camp.</p> <p>Now before we get to the outcome of this march, what happened to these Christian words of Christ?</p>
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Romans 12:17 *Recompense to no man evil for evil.*

Romans 12:19 . . . *avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*

Jesus said if someone hits you on one cheek offer the other also.

Paul writes, "*avenge not yourselves*," but Joseph receives revelations from the Lord that say:

"the redemption of Zion must needs come by power," that "*the Lord would raise up unto my people a man who shall lead them like Moses lead the children of Israel,*" and that the Lord said to "*avenge me of mine enemies!*"

In the same revelation Joseph said the Lord told the Saints to "*curse*" the mob at Jackson County!

But Jesus said in Matthew 5:44

. . . bless them that curse you . . ."

The words of Jesus and His apostles are:

*Bless
Forgive
Avenge not
Turn*

The operative words of Joseph were:

*By power
Raise up a man
Avenge
Curse*

	<p>Before he even began recruiting soldiers for Zion's Camp, Joseph was named "Commander and Chief of the Armies of Israel."</p> <p>Mormon history is riddled with attitudes and actions which were forged on the anvil of Man and his ways, Man and his will, Man and his notions – not the Christian ethics introduced to the world by Christ.</p> <p>This is just another reason Christians zealously and jealously defend the application of the title Christian by upstart groups whose ways differ from those of Christ.</p> <p>Christian is not Jesus and Man. Christianity is Jesus. Period.</p> <p>So about a hundred men gathered and began the 1000 mile trek lead by Commander Joseph.</p> <p>The size nearly doubled as more troops joined them en route from other Mormons who heard of the injustice.</p> <p>Strange things occurred on the March to Jackson County.</p> <p>Strange and downright comical, in my opinion.</p> <p>Lyman Wight, a faithful follower in the march, was called to the position of "General of the Camp."</p> <p>From his own journal we read:</p> <p>"Father Bosley's farm, Joseph ordained me to the office of Banemy in the presence of an angel." Here, "Joseph was given the name of Baurak Ale,"</p>
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	<p>says Wight, which meant “the officer of the highest rank in the army of the strength of the Lord’s hosts and Banemy is an appendage there unto.”</p> <p>I wish I had been ordained to the office of Banemy. I want to be an appendage of the officer of the highest rank in the army of the strength of the Lord’s hosts!”</p> <p>Joseph also appointed to himself an “armor bearer” who, according to Bushman, was a guy who “carried a brace of silver-mounted brass barreled horse pistols” which Joseph would discharge from time to time.</p> <p>Zion’s camp traveled nearly 1000 miles to reach Jackson Missouri from Kirtland Ohio.</p> <p>Joseph Smith was not a light-weight when it came to discomfort. Reports say he refused special treatment and endured the same hardships the rest of the camp endured.</p> <p>There was the puritanical sense of The divine in common everyday events which the group experienced.</p> <p>Once, when someone put a spade in the ground and found water, they believed it was “as big a miracle as when Moses smote the rock and water gushed forth.”</p> <p>There was a constant effort to “see” the hand of God in their efforts.</p> <p>I believe it was Twain again who said:</p> <p>“You can’t depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus.”</p>
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	<p>Perhaps such a saying could not be more applicable than here.</p> <p>Mystically minded people tend to “see” and experience the very things which their imagination entertains.</p> <p>People who believe in ghosts see ghosts.</p> <p>People who personify animals witness animals exemplifying human traits.</p> <p>People who think angels materialize see angels.</p> <p>If you are interested in reading some good stuff on this truly human phenomenon, I suggest reading Thomas Gilovich’s <i>“How we Know what Isn’t So”</i> and perhaps Eric Hoffer’s <i>“The True Believer.”</i></p> <p>Okay . . . how about another classic event that helps paint our portrait of the Prophet, Commander in Chief Joseph Smith?</p> <p>In early June, some of Zion’s Camp came upon an area near the Illinois River where there were some bones scattered on the ground near a small pile of rocks.</p> <p>Someone dug down there and found a skeleton with an arrow point stuck in its ribs.</p> <p>According to the account prepared at Joseph’s own direction, Joseph said:</p> <p>“The visions of the past being opened to my understanding by the Spirit of the Almighty,(again, attributing this revelation to GOD Himself!) I discovered that the person whose</p>
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<p>I just love this! I love it.</p> <p>A “white Lamanite named Zelph!”</p> <p><i>Yes!</i></p> <p>I resonate to what Joseph was doing here so completely – maybe you do too!</p> <p>Anybody who has ever been asked by a child to tell them a story can see what he was doing!</p> <p><i>You want a story, honey? A scary story?</i></p> <p><i>Well . . . once there was a very old and wrinkled man who lived on top of Spiderweb Hill He was so ugly when he was born, his parents named him . . . Chisel breath!</i></p> <p>I mean, Joseph is claiming that God told him – GOD – that this was a white Lamanite named Zelph!</p> <p>When people go into the land of Imagineering, they generally reach to the extremes – like names that begin with X, Q, and Z or funky names like Mahonri Moriacumer and Kolob.</p> <p>Oh, may the Holy God of heaven open your eyes tonight and spare you from your continued belief in this fiction!</p> <p>Anyway . . . according to Joseph, Zelph was a man who fought for the great prophet Onandagus (who he said “was known from the hill Cumorah, or eastern sea, to the Rocky Mountains”).</p>	<p>Skelton was before us was a white Lamanite, a large thick set man, and a man of God.”</p> <p>The thick set mans name? ZELPH</p>
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Now according to Joseph, Zeph had his hip broken by a rock that was shot from a sling during the last great battle between the Lamanites and Nephites.

That's another thing imaginative story telling includes – details so detailed and explicit you just can't help but believe them!

Anyway, long story and long, long journey short, Zion's camp turned into a huge failure insofar as its intended directives were concerned.

Cholera nearly wiped them out and when they finally arrived at Jackson County not a shot was fired.

The soldiers returned home to Ohio and Joseph had the Lord explain to them that they had been turned back because of their unwillingness to be totally obedient to God's commandments (D&C 105:1-9)

Defenders of Zion's camp claim that the protracted failure was actually used by God as a proving ground for the faithful for many of the Church's future leaders remained true to Joseph after the event proved a failure.

Aside from this claim, however, one thing was sure: the church was weakened by the failure and Joseph was called into question as he continued to offer new "revelations" which seemed outside of the purview of the biblically based Book of Mormon.

Post Zion's Camp, the Saints needed facts.

They needed something tangible to feed their diminished faith in Joseph's call as a prophet, seer, and revelator.

With the blisters of Zion's camp still fresh afoot and some of the Saint certainly beginning to ponder things like "Zelph," Joseph was faced with a growing chorus of doubt.

I believe that we can begin to see a trend in the Methods and Mindset of Joseph Smith.

Because it seems to me that whenever things started getting kind-of hinky, Joseph came up with something new, wild, and outlandish to stoke the fading fires of faith, and bring new life to the body of doubters.

If it wasn't a new book translation, it was a revelation, if not a revelation, it was a far-fetched doctrine, if not a doctrine, a wild story.

Never a dull moment in the restored Gospel.

Never a doubt in the minds of believers.

Well, as the bitter dust of Zion's camp began to settle back in Kirtland, the timing of things just could not have been better.

For in July of 1835 and Irishman named Michael Chandler showed up in town with a cache of . . . Egyptian Mummies, artifacts, and carvings!

His exhibit proved very popular among the Saints.

Now remember, Joseph not only called and introduced himself as a prophet to people, but was called a *seer and revelator* when the Church was organized.

In Mosiah 8:13 – that’s in the Book of Mormon - it says that a seer is “*a man that can translate **all records** that are of ancient date.*”

So suddenly, we’ve got ourselves a built in opportunity, another chance for Joseph to shew that he really is a living oracle of God.

What does he do? He claims he can translate some ancient writings presented by Michael Chandler’s traveling show of Egyptian artifacts.

But the thing is, nobody back then could call him on his claims.

And this is how Joseph – and his imagination - flourished. And this is how he established himself as a prophet who must be believed and followed!

Here is where he worked his best magic, where he used, as Bushman coined, “his remarkable power to make religion.”

Pearl of Great Price

~ Part 2 of 2

(June 11, 2007)

Hey, I had a thought come to me the other morning that I think bears mention.

One of the most oft asked questions I am asked through this ministry is “How can I reach out to my family and friends who are LDS?” or “My best friend is LDS and insists that they worship Jesus just like we do. What can I do?”

Let me introduce to you, Church Challenge.

This is how it works.

You and your LDS friend or family member take one month and alternately visit each others religious services.

The first Sunday you both attend an LDS sacrament meeting.

The next Sunday you both attend your Christian service.

Same thing over the remaining two weeks.

And you just let God do the talking. Do not demean the LDS sacrament service content. Do not boast of your worship or Christ centered messages from the Bible.

Just go and exchange with each other a sampling of your religious services.

God will do the rest.

	<p>Oh, and there is no staking the deck.</p> <p>You can't go to your pastor and ask him to gear the service toward anything and your LDS friend can't do the same with their bishop or ward leaders.</p> <p>Just go, experience, and observe.</p> <p>I'm gonna follow up with you guys every week or so and see how it is going.</p> <p>Why? Because I want there to be no reason under the sun for me to have to do this show.</p> <p>But Mormonism will not fall until the general membership starts to stand up and say enough is enough.</p> <p>No more Joseph – Jesus only. No more hymns – worship! No more standard works – the Bible!</p> <p>Get it?</p> <p>All right . . .</p>
<p>Just an FYI follow-up</p> <p>Last week when we were talking about Zelph, I read where Joseph claimed that Zelph was a warrior who served under the great Onandagus.</p> <p>Robert emailed me and reminded me that there was an Onandaga County in New York.</p> <p>Add those whiskers to your beard!</p>	
<p>Okay, got some heat from my tattoo comments last week.</p>	

<p>Let me say this: relax man. It's a personal opinion no different than me saying I like long hair over short.</p> <p>It has nothing to do with salvation, worthiness, or liberty. I just don't like them on girls. Now if a woman of sound reason chooses to get ink, so be it. I'm just trying to tell the young girls whose brains aren't done cooking that they don't need them to look cool or beautiful or sexy.</p> <p>Got it?</p> <p>There are just far more important things to worry about . . . for example:</p>	<p>We had a very sad and sincere voice of a teenage-sounding girl leave a message here at the studios asking "why do people die?" She said:</p> <p>"God took my Mom away and considering I am adopted, and don't even know who my real parents are, why would God take away the people we love?"</p> <p>EXPLAIN</p>
<p>We are in part II of the Pearl of Great Price – a book of writings the LDS Church considers equal to the Bible.</p> <p>If you recall, we left off last week with one Michael Chandler, an Irishman with a traveling museum of Egyptian artifacts, stopping in Kirtland Ohio where Joseph had centralized the church.</p>	

Some of the ancient fragments in Chandler's possession were brought to Joseph Smith and he told Chandler that he could translate them – but that it would take some time.

Before long, the Mormons pooled their funds and actually purchased Chandler's exhibit – the mummies and all – for a price of \$2,400.00 (which would be about \$50,000.00 in funds today) and presented them to Joseph and the Church.

Joseph later wrote:

“with W.W. Phelps and Oliver Cowdery as scribes, I commenced the translation of some of the characters of hieroglyphics, and much to our joy found that one of the rolls contained the writings of Abraham, another of the writings of Joseph of Egypt, etc. – a more full account of which will appear in it's place, as I proceed to examine and unfold them. Truly we can say, the LORD is beginning to reveal the abundance of peace and truth.”

Listen to what Joseph said, my friends, just listen:

He said “much to our joy we found that one of the rolls contained the writings of Abraham, another of the writings of Joseph . . .” and he concluded “Truly we can say – TRULY we can say, the LORD is beginning to reveal the abundance of peace and truth.”

I have tried to give Joseph the benefit of the doubt with things.

I've supposed that maybe his intentions were good in compiling the Book of Mormon. I've suggested he was

subjected to extreme familial and domestic experiences.

But my brothers and sisters, this was outright fraud. Pure and simple fraud.

The evidence here, in and of itself, is enough to condemn everything Joseph Smith claimed as truth from this point forward in Church history.

Translation of the papyri started almost immediately.

In addition to Cowdery and Phelps, another assistant was added to help transcribe – Warren Parrish.

Joseph started by translating what he said was the writings of Abraham. Since knowledge of the Egyptian language had been lost for years, Joseph was throwing down some of the most original work of its time – he even undertook the task of forming an Egyptian alphabet and grammar series!

During this time, the Church was facing some looming and serious issues.

The Kirkland Safety Society Bank fell and brought Kirtland into economic chaos and eventual abandonment.

Three Witnesses to the Book of Mormon were excommunicated for apostasy.

The Saints were expelled from Missouri and a number of Church leaders, including Joseph, were arrested and tried for treason.

In my opinion, the Church withstood these difficulties in large part because

<p>The Pearl of Great Price is actually a collection of writings which include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the book of Moses 2. the book of Abraham 3. JS's revision of the Gospel of Matthew 4. JS's account of the golden plates and his early visions. 5. and the LDS Articles of Faith – which are 13 statements JS penned in 1842 and sent to John Wentworth at the Chicago Democrat. <p>The Book of Moses is essentially a revision of the book of Genesis. It takes much from the KJV, but also adds some LDS flavor to parts.</p> <p>Much of the pre-existent doctrine believed by the LDS originates here.</p>	<p>of the new credibility these recent findings produced.</p> <p>If Joseph could translate these real and visible and tangible and viewable records of true Egyptian origin, then he certainly translated the unseen golden plates.</p> <p>Therefore the writings are true. Therefore the Church is true.</p> <p>And all the suffering and difficulties in the world could never move a single soul away in the face of “unmitigated truth.” Right?</p> <p>Let me explain what this fourth book called the Pearl of Great Price, and what the LDS call scripture equal to the Bible, contains.</p>
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Ideas that the fall of man was a good thing come from here too.

Moses also tells us that Adam was baptized and likens baptism to being born of the spirit.

The next segment of the Pearl of Great Price (a title, by the way, which is taken from a parable of the Lord found in Mark 13:46) is the Book of Abraham.

This book includes three facsimiles of the Egyptian papyrus provided by Chandler and is described as

“The writings of Abraham while he was in Egypt, called the book of Abraham, written by his own hand, upon papyrus.”

Is that a claim or what! Holy freaking chutspa!

There a plenty of witnesses to Joseph actually translating these papyri “written by the actual hand of Abraham.” And what a translation it must have been because very little was known about the Egyptian language at the time and Joseph had no training at all in what was available.

Egyptologist were just, just beginning to understand how to translate writings in Joseph Smith’s day!

Now these papyri were lost for some time, and then they were thought to have been destroyed in a fire (I believe a fire – I’m thinking even the Chicago fire). Then suddenly, in 1967, they turned up in the New York Metropolitan Museum!

This was at first a glorious discovery for

the Church because in 1967, there was plenty of valid, scholarly information regarding the Egyptian language found on the facsimile for a legitimate comparative to occur between what they said and what Joseph wrote.

The Church was ecstatic.

(More on this next week)

Joseph claimed that Abraham had written about a number of very important insights on some very important issues.

These included:

References to a lineal priesthood authority which Abraham held before the Levites existed.

Now it's important to know that Joseph translated the papyri on a few different occasions. He started in 1835-36, took time away, then picked the translation up again in 1842.

Equally important is to know that in 1842, Joseph began to introduce a number of his more adventurous doctrines (which truly define Mormonism today) which he conveniently had Abraham write about as he began translating the facsimiles again.

These unique views include the idea that God sometimes justified deceit (See Abraham 2:22-25 if you don't believe me) eternal progression, principles of astronomy, a pre-existence of spirits (reinforced) and the way Deity governs the heavens.

The Book of Abraham gives insight into God's "plan" for organizing the earth, details on Lucifer's rebellion, an account of the war in heaven, thoughts on free agency, the plan of progression, and how man could go on to become a God themselves. Kolob is introduced in the Book of Abraham, plurality of God's is introduced here to, as is the only referential teaching about African American's not being able to hold the priesthood.

The Matthew Revisions are simply Joseph's Smith's revelations regarding a correcting of 55 verse of the Gospel of Matthew.

Joseph Smith History is the final and revised account of his early visionary claims and should be read in light of his earlier presentations of what he said he experienced in his life.

Finally, we have the Articles of Faith, which are 13 summary statements written by Joseph to help people understand what Latter-day Saints believe.

As a side note, whenever a Latter-day Saint claims that Mormonism teaches that we are saved by grace, just quote them article of Faith number _

"We believe that all mankind may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel."

I read nothing here about faith, faith in Jesus, faith in Jesus alone, grace, or grace alone."


<p>LIVE! From the Mecca of Mormonism – Salt Lake City – This is Heart of the Matter!</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">June 20th 2007 PEARL OF GREAT PRICE Conclusion</p> <p>And I'm your host, Shawn McCraney.</p>
<p>Remember, streaming Video!</p>	<p>(www.bornagainmormon.com)</p>
<p>Shout outs:</p>	<p>Scott K. out of Boise – God bless you, my brother and our sincere thanks!</p> <p>Terrelynn – my apologies. I gave you a short answer without really reading your email. Thank you for your understanding and for the exquisite documents.</p> <p>Shoutout to HEARTSTRINGS – they are a group of musicians who perform every other week at the Tea Grotto in SLC and give the donated proceeds for their concerts to underprivileged kids so they can buy instruments and music lessons. They may be performing at Sugarhouse Park on Sunday July 8th.</p> <p>To Carl W. Don L. and Martin M – all missionary comps who I love that have recently contacted me.</p> <p>Shout out to Trista in Colombia Tennessee – an avid fan. God bless you sister.</p> <p>Jonathan who I saw eating lunch today – God bless.</p> <p>Pete and Kendra - a great couple at a restaurant this afternoon. Thanks for taking the time to say hello.</p>
<p>In-House Guests:</p>	

<p>Two and a half weeks! HEART IN THE PARK! Sunday July 8th 2007! Our annual get together.</p> <p>Four outstanding musical guests! Bounce House for kids! Spoken Word, Worship and an open mic for Q&A!</p> <p>Sugarhouse Park in SLC 3pm to sunset. Bring your own chairs and food. We'll have some books and t-shirts if you're interested. We just want to meet YOU – our audience – face to face, to hug you, to thank you, and to fellowship with you in the Lord.</p> <p>Everyone is invited – everyone except assassins. Assassins are not welcome.</p>	
<p>Every Tuesday night after the show we are getting together at Squatter's pub in downtown SLC.</p> <p>Listen, the name Squatter's pub is a little misleading. It's more like Squatter's restaurant that also serves beer.</p> <p>It's a light and airy place, open and warm. It is NOT a dark smoke- filled bar. Geez, you guys are always thinking the worst of me.</p>	

<p>The food is excellent and from what they tell me the beer is good too – I drink diet coke or water.</p> <p>But come on down. We had a huge group last week – all are invited. Let's fellowship and talk, and see if some good can get done thereby – okay?</p>	
<p>Another reminder: Lordsword <i>A Christian Triage for the Religiously Disaffected</i></p> <p>First gathering?</p> <p>Sunday JULY 15th from 9:15 to 10:15 in the morning.</p> <p>We'll worship God together. We pray to God together. We study the Word of God together.</p> <p>And then we go out and discover what it means to be Christians until we meet the following week.</p> <p>Please join us if you are seeking to know God.</p>	
<p>Christian Movie Review by ANDY This weeks recommendation and review:</p> <p>Couple of calls to address:</p> <p>Valerie notified us with some great</p>	

information about Mountain Meadows Massacre that she obtained from www.UTLM.org

Thank you for the heads up, Valerie. We'll include this info when we get to the massacre.

Nancy B – a wonderful woman and counselor to the show called to say I was a little hostile with the guy who said he lost respect for me because we were meeting in a pub. 

Also received an email from someone who likes me but thinks I come off arrogantly when all I am really doing is trying to communicate with my ever limited abilities.

Let me try and address these perceptions.

I suppose the perception IS the reality, and so all I can do is address the reality of what some people are seeing.

I'm sure I come off arrogantly and impetuous at times on the show. But understand a few things relative to this perceived view:

I have to have a very strong will to do this type of show.

The combination of our topic, my views, and the facts coupled with live calls make for a volatile and at times tenuous situation.

<p>I am purposefully forceful at times as a means to control the direction of the show.</p> <p>If the self-appointed LDS apologists had their way, they would call and make everything seem like it was all Christian, all the same, all nice-nice.</p> <p>I know differently and I have the obligation to make sure these differences are evident.</p> <p>As far as my personal arrogance, I know very well where I stand in the scheme of things and that I am nothing. But this reality does not inhibit my pointedly addressing issues relating to Mormonism and Christianity.</p> <p>Please try and take all these factors into account when you sense I am being to forward or aggressive.</p>	
<p>Prayer * Prayer * Prayer * Prayer</p>	
<p>Once Joseph had translated the Egyptian papyri the entire text of the translation, along with the woodcuts of the three facsimiles, were printed in the Mormon newspaper, <i>The Times and Seasons</i> starting in March of 1842.</p> <p>Forty years later, in 1880, the “translation” was officially canonized by unanimous vote in a general session of the Church’s semi-annual conference.</p>	

Now remember this: This translation is so full of distinct LDS doctrines that it can NEVER be discounted as inauthentic without altering the entire body of Mormon doctrine and throwing Joseph Smith's reputation out the window.

What theologically makes Mormonism Mormonism is more the result of the Pearl of Great Price than any other LDS book. Therefore, THIS is the book that should be scrutinized MOST!

Forget the Book of Mormon. It's a fairly good counterfeit of the Bible and its message. Teach your people the true and full story of the Pearl of Great Price if you want to protect them from joining the Mormon Church!

The story of the Pearl of Great Price and it's contents is what every single non-Mormon should be taught about BEFORE the missionaries ever knock at their door.

Why is it most people who join the Church – why is it most members – have no idea about the origins and history of this book but that the Church insists on calling the Word of God!

This is why: Members don't know its complete history and contents because it is far too controversial to teach but LDS leaders won't reject

it out of hand because that would open the door to doubting all of the Smithian myths he ever presented as from God!

Well guess what?

Over the course of those forty years it took the Church to canonize the Pearl of Great Price something occurred that Joseph did not foresee – scholars learned to actually decipher Egyptian with the same amount of distinction as they could translate Hebrew and Greek.

Ut-oh

Sequestered in safety of the Great Basin, the LDS were impervious to the implications that men and women could actually take the facsimile and tell you what it really communicated.

So, believing in the myth-making magic of their founding prophet, they canonized the Pearl of Great Price in isolation from the growing reality that the thing was farcical.

Even if the Early Utah Saints wanted to verify the translation of the facsimile it would have been impossible because Joseph Smith's first wife Emma – who refused to follow Brigham Young to Utah – retained the papyri while remaining behind in Nauvoo.

So while the Salt Lake Saints dreamed, and Emma simmered in

Nauvoo, the rest of the world was expanding into the dangerous world of “fact.”

One of the first scholars to examine the Pearl of Great Price was M. Theodule Deveria in 1856. He had examined hundreds of Egyptian documents when someone in France placed a pamphlet in his hands called the POGP.

Though the copies of the facsimiles were difficult to clearly see, he readily recognized them as common Egyptian funerary documents.

Deveria dismissed Joseph’s explanations of the papyri as “rambling nonsense.”

But his work went largely unnoticed.

Then in 1873, a man named TBH Stenhouse wrote a book that brought Deveria’s work back into the light.

Published in New York, the book was called *The Rocky Mountain Saints*, and it presented a serious challenge to the book of Abraham.

The LDS Church pretty much played ostrich and ignored all accusations.

Twenty-seven years later, in 1900, Stenhouse’s book was republished.

In response, the Church moved its

membership to do what they do best: Support the untenable by sustaining the leadership: and in October of 1902 the general membership once again sustained the POGP as the Word of God.

In 1912, a Reverend Franklin Spaulding from the state of Utah decided to pursue the matter in state regarding the POGP and sent the three facsimiles from the Book of Abraham to some of the world's leading scholars of Egyptology.

Eight of them responded.

Their verdicts?

Dr. Author Mace of The Metropolitan Museum of Art wrote:

"Joseph Smith's interpretation of these cuts is a farrago of nonsense from beginning to end. Five minutes study in an Egyptian gallery of any museum should be enough to convince any educated man of the clumsiness of the imposture."

Dr. Sayce of Oxford England said:

"Smith has turned the Goddess into a king and Osiris into Abraham!"

Dr. James Breasted of the University of Chicago replied:

The text . . . "very clearly demonstrates that he (Joseph

Smith) was totally unacquainted with the significance of these documents and absolutely ignorant of the simplest facts of Egyptian writing and civilization.”

Dr. Flinders Petrie of London University said:

“ . . . the attempts to guess at a meaning are too absurd to be noticed. It may be safely said that there is not one single word that is true in these explanations.”

Every one of the scholars agreed: The papyrus in question was nothing but a common Egyptian funerary text NOT written by Abraham nor by anyone else in Abrahams time. These writings were penned at least 1500 years later.

Why were these conclusions so easily determined by theses scholars?

Just imagine comparing some writings today in 2007 to some writings that were composed in 507 A.D. Think you could tell the differences?

Well that is the same time difference between Abraham and the time stamp on these funeral texts.

And how did the ‘brethren’ respond to these criticisms?

In 1913 LDS writer John Henry

Evans wrote in the church sanctioned magazine called the Improvement Era that in order for a true test of Joseph's ability to translate to occur, the original papyri from which the Book of Abraham came would have to be examined.

This was really safe to say because remember, everyone was under the impression that the original papyri disappeared years before in the great Chicago fire! Therefore - like the first Vision, like the Golden plates, like the restoration of the Priesthood - the Saints had to trust and believe that Joseph was just telling the truth.

But God works in very mysterious ways, doesn't He?

Fifty years passed, and in the Spring of 1966, a professor in Arabic studies at the University of Utah, Dr. Aziz S. Atiya, who was writing a book, was searching for some supplementary materials in New York's huge Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Dr. Aziz is not LDS, but teaching in Utah exposed him to some of the LDS claims - including their claims that their founding prophet translated the ancient writings of Abraham into a book of scripture.

Behind some bars in a storehouse area of the museum, Dr. Aziz says that something "caught his eye" and he requested to be allowed in

<p>the area to look around.</p> <p>Well guess what he finds?</p> <p>The apparently destroyed collection of Egyptian papyri!</p> <p>It had been glued to some stiff backing paper in an effort to preserve them way back in the mid 1800's.</p> <p>A year and a half year later, the Metropolitan Museum gave the papyri to the LDS Church.</p>	<p>BYU scholar and professor Hugh Nibley stated that this "discovery was the most momentous transaction to occur in the Church since the Angel Moroni retrieved the golden plates from Joseph Smith."</p> <p>As a side note, while attending BYU I was one the swim team and Hugh Nibley would come to the pool in the afternoons and swim laps.</p> <p>Well, I was in my late teens and just full of energy and I happened to take a waterpolo ball and fire it across the pool – hoping to hit an unsuspecting teammate.</p> <p>Unfortunately, I missed him all together and the ball skipped across the deck and flew into the other pool only to bean Professor Nibley right in the head as he was swimming by.</p> <p>Our Coach freaked out and ran to the aid of a somewhat stunned professor of ancient languages. Apparently he was unharmed. But for the remainder of the season I was known as the guy who hit one of the smartest men in the world in the head with</p>
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<p>Okay, so the Church gets possession of the original papyri and boy are they excited.</p> <p>Now – finally – they can prove to the world that Joseph was no con man, that he truly was a Seer, and that this book of Scripture really was from God to Father Abraham!</p> <p>There was also another exciting possibility this discovery presented:</p> <p>The opportunity for a Latter-day Prophet to illustrate the unique gift of Seer in these Latter-days.</p> <p>Every LDS prophet is sustained as a “Prophet, a Seer, and a Revelator.”</p> <p>So is each member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.</p> <p>Being a Seer in Mormonism means the right and ability to translate ancient texts.</p> <p>In the Journal of Discourses Volume 20 page 65-67, LDS Apostle Orson Pratt asked:</p> <p>“Have any other denominations got this gift among them? Go and inquire throughout all of Christendom . . . ‘Can you translate ancient records written in a language that is lost to the knowledge of man? No . . . the universal reply of the Christian</p>	<p>a waterpolo ball.</p>
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denominations, numbering some 400 million, would be that they have not the power to do it - you must give us credit of at least professing to have these great and important gifts."

And they wonder why the Christian community has a hard time a just a lovin' all over them.

But instead of turning the papyri over to a then ailing Church president (David O McKay) or to the quorum of the Twelve, the Church decided to send them to its most qualified academic center for analysis and translation - Brigham Young University.

Patiently but ever so excitedly, the Saints held their collective breath.

In February 1968, the Church published a glorious pictorial spread in the Improvement Era, which somehow seemed to validate the Book of Abraham Story and Joseph interpretation thereof.

I suppose this publication would be like National Geographic presenting a magazine full of glossy pictures of a paleontologist discovery they brazenly labeled the missing link - only to later find through legitimate analysis that their "missing link" was simply a large monkey from a thousand years ago.

The pictorial layout was important.

The Church – especially its scholars and academics at the time – was suffering from an embarrassing blow related to a document Joseph called the “Grammar and Alphabet of the Egyptian Language.”

Pictures of the papyri in living color would go along way to boost the confidence of the membership at large.

And finally – finally – the question of whether or not Joseph Smith was telling the truth could be revealed.

Finally hard evidence, both sides shouted.

Finally, validation or refutation!

Dr. Hugh Nibley was assigned to do the translation. But, as Nibley was quick to admit, he was not an Egyptologist!

But in early 1967 Nibley and an LDS man named Dee Jay Nelson struck up a rapport. Long story short, Nibley got Nelson to interview with a member of the First Presidency of the LDS Church (N. Eldon Tanner) and he was cleared to do the translation.

Nelson had been a student of Egyptian for 20 some odd years and had extensive field work under the tutelage of that Egyptian Egyptologist Zakaria Goneim.

For years Goneim had been Keeper of Antiquities at the Necropolis of Saqqara.

So, with an LDS Egyptologist in place, the Church anxiously awaited an official translation.

The Improvement Era promised that a forthcoming translation was on the way.

And Brother Nelson went to work with Dr. Nibley standing by to assist in any way he could.

Everything was set and right.

They had the original manuscripts. They had Nelson, an LDS Egyptian Scholar.

They had the oversight of the known and respected linguist Dr. Hugh Nibley – also LDS.

What was the finding?

The papyri were ordinary funeral documents – nothing more, nothing less – written around 500 years after the death of Jesus.

Nothing about Abraham.
Nothing about Kolob.
Nothing about God sometimes justified deceit, eternal progression, principles of astronomy, a pre-existence of spirits, or the way Deity governs the heavens.

Did Joseph lie?

Yes.

Did he lie in the name of God?

Yes.

Did he lie about important LDS doctrines? YES. Yes. Yes.

Obviously, the Church wasn't about to publish Nelson's findings, which caused Nelson to go to Gerald and Sandra Tanner, who were more than happy to publish the truth.

Dee Jay Nelson and his family left Mormonism after he dedicated himself to the Church in a variety of ways.

When asked about the absence of a translation, Dr. Nibley stated:

"It is doubtful whether any translation could do as much good as harm."

In later years, a number of extremely qualified experts in the field of Egyptology have had the opportunity to examine the original papyri (usually through detailed photographs).

Dr. Baer of the Chicago Oriental Institute, Dr. John A Wilson and Dr. Klaus Baer (at the University of Chicago), and Professor Richard Parker (at Brown University) all unanimously agree that in the essentials the original fragments

Joseph Smith claimed came from the HAND OF ABRAHAM on Papyrus, were:

1. From the Book of Breathings, also known as the Shait en Sensen)
2. Book of the Dead (belonging to Amon-Re Neferirnub)
3. Book of the Dead for the deceased Tshenmin, daughter of Nes-Khensu.

In light of all this scholarly evidence, Dr. Nibley began to suggest that Joseph didn't actually translate the papyri, but instead received heavenly transmissions from God inspired by his merely viewing these ancient texts.

He wrote publicly in the Summer of 1968 (Dialogue)

"Today nobody claims that Joseph Smith got his information through ordinary scholarly channels. In that case, one wonders how any amount of checking along ordinary scholarly channels is going to get us very far."

After reading this, I am certain I wasn't the first person to bean Dr. Nibley in the head with a waterpolo ball.

Alright, let's go to the phones!

(801) 973-TV20
(801) 973-8820

And while we wait for the operators to clear the calls, I'm going to read a few emails.	
Conclusion	

Respite 3

(June 26, 2007)

I was hard on Joseph Smith for attempting to pull this off as legitimate scripture.

I was direct with Gordon B. Hinkley and “the brethren” by telling them to admit to the membership that the Book of Abraham is nothing but fiction – which would allow them to freely move on as a people longing to know and serve God.

We are now sitting somewhere in LDS Church History between 1833 to 1835.

The Book of Mormon has been published.

The Church has been founded and relocated.

The Doctrine and Covenants has been accepted and is being added upon by Joseph.

The Pearl of Great Price under its highly questionable construction.

And the Saints have been established in Kirkland, Ohio and Jackson County Missouri.

I think tonight is the right to for another RESPITE – our third this year.

Let's take a minute and talk about a few matters.

When we started this ministry back in 2003, a general cry could be heard from several counter-cult ministries located around the country that Shawn McCraney and Born-Again Mormon Ministries is everything from slightly misguided to being straight from the pit of hell.

Over the past few months, many of these once unfair and myopic opinions have changed.

Last week a brother I know told me that a local counter-cult ministry has declared that I have now officially become an “anti-Mormon” and welcomed in the ranks.

Let me state here and now that everything that was questioned in our ministry remains the same and NOTHING has changed in our attitudes and beliefs.

What does this mean?

It means we still maintain that a person can be saved while a Latter-day Saint.

It means we still maintain that a person who has been saved as a Latter-day Saint may remain LDS if they so desire; that there are a number of factors that are involved which many people do not understand.

It means that we don’t use the pejorative word “cult” to describe the Church.

It means that we detest many of the tactics street preachers and the so-called purveyors of truth deploy in the name of Jesus toward the Mormons.

And it means we didn’t want to join your ranks then and we certainly don’t want to join your ranks now.

We believe that hair-splitting dialogue, name calling, and the endless examination of motives that the counter-cult ministries employ are disgusting.

We believe there are Mormon's who are saved and confirmed Christians, and we believe that many world-wide Christian churches are in no better shape doctrinally than the LDS Church.

Don't like this? We don't care!

What do we care about?

We care about the LDS Church changing their corporate doctrine AND we care that individual Latter-day Saints come to know the Lord through spiritual rebirth.

Now admittedly, we have learned by first hand experience over the course of this ministry getting legs.

First, we have learned that most LDS – when they have truly been born-again, cannot remain LDS.

We've also learned that we must teach the hard cold facts about LDS doctrine on this show – and we have done this more aggressively this year than ever before – in order for the LDS to understand how truly different they are from biblical Christianity.

But I'll tell you right now – I think there is plenty of room in heaven for the LDS people I know who care about knowing and following Jesus than there is for the mean-spirited dogmatists who spend their time nit-picking on everyone and everything that is different from what they believe should be.

I frankly don't agree with this form of Christianity.

<p>Now you can go print that in some cheesy pamphlet and rabidly push it into the hands of every unsuspecting passerby you can find.</p> <p>But DON'T ever include me or our ministry in your little tour de force.</p>	
<p>Okay . . . that being said . . . just what is our objective?</p> <p>We seek to bring as many people as possible to a regenerative relationship with Jesus as possible.</p> <p>Within the LDS community, we discovered that many of them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) don't know what this means. b) don't believe it is necessary. c) don't know how to access it. d) aren't able to experience it because of their errant doctrinal beliefs. <p>We have chosen to use this year to work through many primary LDS doctrines and practices in an effort to open eyes and ears, that the people may see, and understand, and believe, and be converted, and then be healed.</p> <p>We have discovered that the set of our show, my open shirts, now my beard, and our certain "style" has caused a certain people group to stop and watch.</p> <p>We have learned that when many people who have stopped get very angry at me.</p> <p>Some write threatening emails. Some call and state that I am a liar, a demon, and even an anti-Christ.</p> <p>We have also learned that many people who have gotten so angry at me have decided to investigate our claims.</p>	

<p>And we know that many of them – when they do – begin to see and hear, begin to understand, believe in Jesus, and then He steps in and changes their lives.</p> <p>We would like – LOVE – for Mormonism to change doctrinally. This is a focus.</p> <p>But until they do, we will strive to bring as many LDS seekers we can to Him.</p>	
<p>An Email from Jared:</p> <p>“Your purpose for doing what you are doing became clear when you announced that you are starting your own church! You are just another Strangite among the many.</p> <p>Good luck leading anyone astray.”</p> <p>I received another email from a woman who stated some really interesting things which she feels need to be addressed. It tends to answer this email from Jared.</p> <p>(Read it)</p> <p>We are planting LORD’SWORD because we want to give the religiously disaffected a place to establish a foundation with the Lord.</p> <p>The religiously disaffected are those who have been burned by the deleterious effects of organized, institutionalized religion:</p> <p>“You MUST do this this way.”</p> <p>“You MUST do this that way or God will not love you anymore!”</p> <p>OR</p> <p>“If it makes sense, God is not in it!”</p>	

Foundations of the Early Church

(July 3, 2007)

As of two weeks ago, we are sitting around 1834-1835 in our coverage of LDS history. We're going to step back a bit to seal some gaps.

Remember, it is my intention to present the "unspoken history" of the Church, which is rarely discussed with the general membership and which is *never* discussed by the missionaries when they present their anemic version of Mormonism to investigators.

It is from the fields of this history that Mormon doctrine and practice is harvested and ingested today.

The day after publishing the Book of Mormon, Joseph announced to his friends that his official title was

(QUOTE)

"Seer, a Translator, a Prophet, an Apostle of Jesus Christ, and Elder of the Church through the will of God the Father, and the grace of your Lord Jesus Christ."

The Church of Christ was formed on April 6th 1830 with six members. As it grew, most of the converts came from Southern New York and not from Joseph's home in Palmyra, as Joseph had established a not so spiritual reputation in this area.

Creditors plagued the Smith family and the stress of bankruptcy and growing hostility toward Joseph's

claims caused him to return to his in-laws Pennsylvania farm.

From what I've read, I don't think Joseph Smith had an aversion to hard work, but I do think he had an aversion to manual labor, preferring to spend his days exercising his imagination, charisma and gifts of persuasion over farm labor.

It appears that Emma and her Father, however, found relief in seeing Joseph applying himself to traditional farming activities, and it may be that Joseph also returned to the Pennsylvania land to appease his wife and in-laws to some extent.

I know from personal experience that when a husband puts "everything on the line" it can be a very trying ordeal for a wife and her parents, and I'm sure Emma and the Hale's were no exception.

It wasn't too long, however, that Oliver Cowdery visited Joseph and Emma back in Pennsylvania to convince him to carry on with the needs of building the newly established church.

Shortly thereafter, Joseph received this revelation from the Lord about himself which he undoubtedly and conveniently shared with his stressed out wife. It said:

"Magnify thine office, and after thine hast sowed thy fields and secured them, go speedily unto the church which is in Colesville, Fayette, and Manchester, and they shall support thee; and I will bless them both spiritually and temporally; but if they

receive thee not, I will send them a cursing instead of a blessing . . . “

(the revelation goes on then states)

“And in temporal labors thou shalt not have strength, for this is not thy calling.”

It seems the Lord was not only speaking to Joseph but spoke in such a way that Emma would be equally reassured . . . and hopefully convinced.

Emma had been through a lot in their young married life.

By this time she had already lost one child, had been living off the generosity of others, had watched Joseph establish a church with very little initial growth or success, had seen the reaction from the masses to his claims, had not seen the golden plates and had certainly disappointed her parents with her choice of a spouse.

But even with this revelation from God himself, it seems certain that Emma was not convinced.

More, perhaps, was needed of the Lord.

In short order more conveniently arrived.

It was a revelation directly to Emma this time, and was recorded in the Book of Commandments, Chapter 36, verse 58-59:

“Hearken unto the voice of the Lord your God, while I speak unto you,

*Emma Smith, my daughter . . . thou art an **elect lady** whom I have called. **Murmur** not because of the things which thou hast not seen . . . And the Office of they calling shall be for a comfort unto my servant, Joseph Smith, Jun., thy husband, in his afflictions with thy consoling words, in the spirit of meekness . . . And thou needest not fear, for thy husband shall support thee from the Church . . . cleave unto the covenants thou hast made. Continue in the spirit of meekness and beware of pride. Let thy soul delight in thy husband . . . **and except thou do this, where I am you cannot come.***

Oh, FYI -

- the term “elect lady” comes straight out of the New Testament – 2nd John 1:1
- the word Murmur is one of the most used verbs in the BOM
- JS was already “covenant minded” as his wording here reveals.
- and This revelation was revised later and the line “thy husband shall support thee from the Church” was changed to “thy husband shall support thee in the church.”

Pretty slick, eh?



In the face of this “convenient revelation” Emma finally agreed to leave Pennsylvania and the agrestic life she hoped her hubby would embrace.

Having nowhere to go, the Smith’s moved into the home of Peter Whitmer.

She never saw her parents again.

Around this time, Joseph had pretty much abandoned his practices in folk magic – no more mineral rod and it seems he for the most part gave up most of the use of the seer stone. It appears he was from this point forward he was able to speak heavenly directives without the aid of any props.

David Whitmer recorded that Joseph had said that

(QUOTE)

“ . . . he did not use the stone anymore” and that “we would all have to depend on the Holy Ghost to be guided into truth and obtain the will of the Lord.”

This added a whole new dimension to the operation of the church – it had to be decided who could receive revelation for it and who could not.

At one point, Oliver Cowdery, who believed the apostolic gifts were open to all, tried his hand at receiving and recording revelations and even went so far as to tell Joseph some of his inspired commands needed revision.

In response to this, Joseph asked him:

(QUOTE)

“By what authority do you command me to alter or erase, to add to or diminish from, a revelation or commandment from Almighty God?”

Cowdery probably sort of wilted and said something like,

"I dunno? Gosh, Joseph!" ☺

Actually, while Cowdery may have pulled back at this verbal challenge from Joseph, he did encourage Hiram Page, who was one of the witnesses to the Book of Mormon, to start getting his own revelations from a little black seer-stone with some holes drilled in it.

This is important because it reveals how matter-of-factly Joseph must have used the stone as a standard practice in the past.

Joseph saw through Cowdery's attempts to use Hiram Page as his own little "puppet revelator," and through another convenient revelation, had God himself warn Cowdery to knock it off.

(QUOTE)

"Behold, I say unto thee, Oliver . . . no one shall be appointed to receive commandments and revelations in this church, excepting my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., for he receiveth them even as Moses . . . "

He goes on

"and again, thou shalt take thy brother, Hiram Page, between him and thee alone, and tell him that those things that he hath written from that stone, are not of me, and that Satan deceiveth him."

Oliver probably snapped his fingers and said, *Dang it, Joseph.* ☺

But he did get Hiram Page to renounce his seer stone activities at the first general conference, thereby publicly acknowledging that it was only Joseph, the “First Elder” who could receive these revelations in the church and not just any old guy with an imagination or holy rock.

The pattern was being established.

Joseph cut his teeth on religion. He observed churches that were orderly and churches that were chaotic – and could easily see which ones thrived and survived, which ones didn’t, and why.

Once he established himself as “the oracle,” things in the Church became a sort of his way or the highway, and he had convinced enough people over time to back his every command.

This is nothing new. And many people since – like Jim Jones, David Koresh, and Poe – have held a similar sway upon the true believers.

As his spiritual stature improved, so did Joseph’s “revelations.” The early utterances were usually short and halting. And they usually addressed earthly affairs and financial problems – including having the Lord tell people to sell their lands and give him the proceeds.

But as more and more people respected him as a prophet, he began to actually revelate like you would think a prophet should.

Once again, he turned to his knowledge of the Bible, not only borrowing from its language style and text, but also its themes.

Escatological utterances were more and more infused in his commands.

The chosen people, the gathering of Israel, eternal damnation, the second coming, obedience and the resurrection all became natural topics to which he infused into the revelatory texts.

But Joseph was different from the scripture quoting revivals of his day because Joseph put his revelations to work.

He gave them legs. And he used his revelations to keep buildings being built and the Saints unifying into a collective unit of dedicated believers.

LDS author Richard Bushman describes Joseph's

“ . . . remarkable power to make religion,” that he had a “green thumb for growing ideas from tiny seeds,” and that “he made the transcendent literal and the mundane heavenly.”

I think Bushman nails it here.

Smith was not another Swedenborg with his head in the celestial clouds, nor was he a pragmatic materialist like his predecessor Brigham Young.

No, Joseph had a very, very unique ability to actually describe the bed upon which God's sleeps, and then

get his followers to try and construct replicas for themselves – and him, if they felt so inclined.

Some people call this inspiration.

Others call it maniacal and manipulative.

I like to think of his utterances as “convenient revelation.”

I mean I would probably try and get people to do what I wanted them to do using the name of the Lord if I really thought I could get away with it – and do it without smiling a whole heck of a lot.

“Bill, the Lord told me to tell you to trim the hedge between our houses.”

“Brother Fred, God want you to sell your house, and your car, and then give me your wife!”

You think this is far fetched?

Just wait.

Cowdery was having trouble getting books of Mormon sold in the east, and so Joseph called him to the west, to reach out to the Lamanites, and to keep his eyes peeled for a spot to build the New Jerusalem, which, according to a revelation, was to be established somewhere on the “borders (near the location of) the Lamanites.”

Cowdery took to the western mission field with three companions. One of them was a young recent

convert named Parley P. Pratt, who was previously converted to Campbellism - a restorationist movement like Mormonism – in Ohio by a well known preacher named Sidney Rigdon.

Sidney Rigdon was a handsome and dignified man who enjoyed a well deserved reputation of being one of the premiere religious orators in Ohio.

But Rigdon was also known to fall prey to great emotional outbursts in relation to “the Spirit.”

A preacher friend wrote of him that

(QUOTE)

“He was gifted with fine powers of the mind, an imagination at once fertile, glowing and wild to extravagance, with a temperament tinged with sadness and bordering on credulity.”

He was also prone to “nervous spasms and swoonings” which he attributed to the Holy Ghost.”

Pratt had steered Oliver Cowdery and company to go to Kirkland, Ohio, so they could meet with Rigdon and teach him about Mormonism – which Pratt believed was a true manifestation of the restorationist movement as contained in the Book of Mormon.

Three months before they arrived, Rigdon had a falling out with Alexander Campbell over the subject of communal living and leaving established a communistic colony in Kirkland, a town close to

Cleveland.

The Millennial Harbinger, vol. 2, page 100, records that Rigdon, *“after fasting and praying for days, had a fit of swooning and sighing come over him, and he saw an angel, and was converted to Mormonism.”*

In less than three weeks, Rigdon’s entire religious commune in Kirkland was baptized into this new restoration Church nicknamed Mormonism.

Back in New York, Joseph heard about Rigdon and the community, and for weeks sought to convince the 60 or so converts to move to Kirkland by telling them that it was *“the Eastern boundary of the promised land, which extended all the way to the Pacific Ocean.”*

But the people were reticent.

Without gaining the general consensus to move, Joseph conveniently received another revelation, which was read in a general conference and was heavily couched in end-time verbiage.

“But the day soon cometh that ye shall see me . . . the angels are waiting the great command to reap down the earth, to gather the tares that they may be burned.”

The revelation then went on to describe the promised land that Joseph envisioned, saying it was

“a land flowing with milk and honey, upon which there shall be no curse when the Lord cometh. And I will

give it to you for a land of your inheritance, IF you seek it with all of your hearts."

And in the typical but apparently unnoticed language of being obviously manipulative, Joseph had the Lord add:

"And they that have farms that cannot be sold, let them be rented or left as seemeth them good."
(D&C 38)

Doesn't that make you smile?

It's like writing out this inspired and complex model for eradicating cancer cells and then adding at the end of it that you like KFC crispy better than the original recipe!

And these people bought it.
They STILL buy it!

The revelation sealed the deal, and the New York Saints traveled to join the commune in Kirkland.

Joseph discovered that the 150 Kirkland Saints who waited his arrival presented a whole new set of problems for him – most in the area of crazy religious fanaticism.

The Kirkland Saint thought it very appropo to roll on the floors, scream in tongues, preach to imaginary congregations in the woods, and to receive revelations they claimed hung from invisible parchments in the sky.

Like with Cowdery and Page, Joseph was once again faced with having to reel the church in under

his direction before it unraveled into fanatical oblivion.

After a number of aberrant revelatory claims among the men and women of Kirkland, Joseph made it known, by another very convenient revelation, that anyone who was going to preach Mormonism must have been ordained by the head of the Church.

In the end, this meant that anyone could proclaim Mormonism so long as he were ordained by the heads of the Church and so long as they subjected their ideas and opinions to this head.

The cast was now setting. And it allowed for several things.

First, it eliminated ecclesiastical chaos.

One revelator was much easier to manage than a thousand.

It also allowed Joseph the opportunity to further extend his revelations to some of the farthest reaches of his imagination.

And this he did.

In 1832, in a town called Mayfield in the state of Ohio, which rested ten miles southwest of Kirkland where Joseph and Emma now lived with the other Saints, a man named Samuel Alger converted to Mormonism. His wife Clarissa was evidently baptized by Parley P Pratt. This made the Alger's some of Mormonism's earliest converts.

<p>Converts Samuel and Clarissa had a fourteen year old daughter whose name was Fanny.</p> <p>Within a year, Fanny, in what appears to have been another “convenient revelation” to Joseph, one which was not revealed for more than a decade, secretly became Joseph’s first polygamist wife.</p> <p>And this begins our examination of a truly classic Mormon doctrine distinction . . . plural marriage.</p>	
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Polygamy

~ Part 2 of 4

(July 17, 2007)

<p>First my daughter.</p> <p>Mallory made the statement that it seems to here – at this point in her life – that religion (or Christianity) seems to be nothing more than a crutch.</p> <p>I would have to agree whole-heartedly.</p> <p>But what is truly the question here is not the crutch element, but perspective.</p> <p>Crutches are important.</p> <p>If you truly break an ankle, they are necessary if you want to get about.</p> <p>Insulin is certainly a crutch for diabetics – a crutch that keeps them alive.</p> <p>Kidney dialysis, pacemakers, automobiles, and cell phones are also crutches.</p> <p>We have environmental crutches necessary to life – like oxygen, water, food and shelter, public service crutches like firemen and policemen, and emotional crutches like love, touch, kindness, and care.</p>	<p>Two items seemed to get under peoples skin:</p> <p>My daughter, Mallory and the advice I quoted Chuck Smith giving to the people in South America who were a polygamist family and came to know the Lord.</p>
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We even have informational crutches like the yellow pages, books, and the internet.

Crutches are a reality and a necessity of life!

People who are spiritually wounded – which is everyone – are fortunate to have a creator who provided everyone a living crutch – one who can heal all wounds in life - Jesus.

But the pride of Man has taken the concept of crutches and made them – especially when it comes to God – anathema.

Jesus a crutch? Absolutely. And I am not too proud or ignorant to reject the support.

The dark-side, the Nietzsche Uber mench, and poems like “Invictus” call for Man to be crutchless, an Island, a rock.

Yeah, right.

This is not only a sure recipe for a life of misery, it is foundationally ignorant.

Problems arise when crutches, however, are misapplied and misused.

People have a natural tendency to throw the crutches away and grab a wheelchair.

Look around any bar, and drug filled park, and fast food restaurant.

Perhaps this is often more the case with organized religion than anything else.

This was never God's intended purpose. We are to have a relationship with Him – not a religion built around Him.

Abused crutches remove thought and discomfort, abduct personal freedom, and ultimately bind the user.

But I would rather be an addicted heroin addict who truly knows Jesus than a clean living religionist who doesn't.

Now, the polygamy ordeal.

(Last week . . . tell story)

Received dozens of emails – mostly from females in Utah – that were quite angry with the story and the fact that I supported the advice given.

Long story summarized, these people maintained that when a person comes to know Jesus they must put their past behind them or they are living in sin and not true followers.

Over and over again I was sent long scriptural diatribes, cut and pasted into seething communiqués which had the intention to either coerce or shame me into a retraction.

It's not gonna happen.

The Bible – including all of its passages on the love and grace of God – when taken into context, support the advice given the Christian man.

Any fool can make a rule.

Anyone can be an enforcer of black and white issues.

	<p>But life is murky, and difficult, and hard. We make some pretty ugly beds prior to coming to know the Lord and sometimes we must spend the rest of our nights sleeping in them.</p> <p>What about a transsexual whose had the parts removed who comes to know Jesus?</p> <p>Will he (or she) only be acceptable to God if the parts are restored – which is impossible?</p> <p>There are something's that once they have been done are impossible to restore – like bringing a child into the world.</p> <p>The situation is NOT ideal.</p> <p>And it should always be the prerogative of the women to get out if so inclined, but a family is a family, and when people come to the Lord, all things can be made new and whole.</p> <p>So deal with it.</p>
<p>So, Fanny Alger, who was a maid in the home of Joseph and Emma Smith in Kirtland, Ohio, and who was described as “nice and comely” and who “Joseph loved” became his first polygamous wife – she was in her mid teens.</p> <p>Not too many months after the secret marriage, it appears that rumors were spreading.</p> <p>Joseph left town on a trip to Michigan and an while gone an “Article of Marriage” was presented and accepted</p>	<p>TOPIC</p>

by the Saints. It denied the practice of polygamy.

Oliver Cowdery got piously curious and decided to do some checking into the rumors of Joseph's relationship to Fanny, even to the point, it is said, that he and a few others attempted to corner her in the Kirtland temple to get the facts.

Because of his delving, Oliver Cowdery, scribe of the BOM and cousin of Smith, was excommunicated for "seeking to destroy the character of the PJS by falsely insinuating that he was guilty of adultery."

Smith would deny adultery over and over – because to him – it wasn't. It was a marriage authorized by God with the ceremony dictated by Smith himself to Levi Hancock, who repeated it as Fanny and the prophet stood by.

A "marriage" not very much appreciated by Emma, his wife.

Ann Eliza Webb Young, a woman who divorced Brigham Young wrote:

(page 34)

Though wed to Smith around 1833, Fanny Alger left the self-proclaimed prophet and returned to monogamy in 1836 by marrying a Mr. Solomon Custer.

She also left Mormonism for good.

We know Fanny went on to raise a family of nine children, many of whom who died – with the death of children being a common thread in the lives of

most of Joseph Smith's plural wives.

After Joseph Smith's death Fanny was questioned by one of her brothers about her relationship to the dead prophet to which she replied:

"That is all a matter of my own and I have nothing to communicate."

And though her parents and the rest of the Alger family moved on to Nauvoo, Illinois and then to Utah, nothing more is known of Fanny except she was once a teen housemaid of the family, Joseph married her, Emma kicked her out in the night, and she abandoned Mormonism for good.

As far as we know, Joseph would not receive another wife unto himself until 1838.

Her name was Lucinda Pendleton.

Lucinda was described as "short, with light hair, bright blue eyes and pleasing."

When she was eighteen years old she married a man named William Morgan, who was an anti-mason writer. He was forty-five!

In 1824, five years later, she bore their first child.

Morgan, her husband, wrote an anti-Mason book called, "Illustrations of Masonry by one of the Fraternity who has Devoted Thirty Years to the Subject."

(Nothing like long titles, eh?)

For writing this book, some Masons kidnapped him and killed him.

This murder – the event itself and the attempt to cover it up - contributed greatly to the overall demise of the very popular Masonic movement around the eastern United States.

The trial that was held for Morgan's murder occurred in 1827 – right when Joseph was compiling the Book of Mormon.

As a side, it seems that the headline cries of “secret combination” relative to the Masons Machiavellian actions about Morgan's murder somehow became a theme in the Book of Mormon text . . . hmmm???

Anyway, four years after Morgan's disappearance at the hands of the Masons, Lucinda married her downstairs neighbor, a man by the name of Harris.

She was 29, he was 50.

Three years later, in 1834, she and Harris were baptized by Orson Pratt. By 1838, Harris was on a high council in Far West Missouri.

As you recall, Mormonism was split between Missouri and Kirtland, Ohio, but in 1838, Joseph made a move to Missouri.

When he and Emma arrived, Harris was assigned to meet them.

Of their accommodations, Joseph Smith himself wrote:

“We were immediately received under the hospitable roof of George W. Harris who treated us with all kindness possible. Here we refreshed ourselves with much satisfaction after our long and tedious journey.”

The Smith’s stayed at the Harris’s house for some two months before moving on to their own place.

LDS author Todd Compton writes:

“There is no firm date for Smith’s marriage to Lucinda, but these two months are a good possibility. He often married women while he was living in the same house with them.”

Harris was a faithful Saint. He was dedicated and devoted and probably was willing to give his wife Lucinda over to be sealed to Joseph for all eternity because even though Lucinda was married polygamously to Smith in 1838, she continued to live with Harris through the remained of their marriage.

This was the case with all married women to married Smith polyandrously.

Harris continued to be promoted through the ranks of the Church and gave good service to it.

He became a member of the legendary Danites (which we’ll discuss later) and Joseph wrote in a letter that he had hand selected a property right across the street from him in Nauvoo for the Harris’s to reside.

While alive Smith enjoyed arranging marriages for his followers, including that of Lucinda’s 16 year old daughter.

When Harris was sent out on a mission and gone preaching Mormonism for a full year in 1840, Willard Richards recorded that he and Joseph dined with Lucinda and his dead brothers wife, Agnes Colbrith – who would also become one of Joseph’s wives, at her home.

After Joseph Smith was martyred, Lucinda was sealed to him in Nauvoo posthumously with her earthly husband standing in as proxy for the dead prophet. And then remarried to her earthly husband for time as all marriages in Nauvoo were declared null because they had been performed by men lacking in authority.

After 20 years of marriage to Harris, Lucinda left him.

He remained a devout Latter-day Saint, but because he believed that Missouri was to soon be redeemed (as promised by Smith) he chose to remain behind and not go west to Salt Lake.

Years later, after he had passed, Brigham Young bitterly said in a sermon in 1860 that . . .

“Harris has gone to the spirit world, and where his circuit will be I neither know nor care”

All because he chose to think for himself.

Lucinda not only left her devoted husband, but Mormonism too.

She joined the Catholic Sisters of Charity in a hospital in Tennessee and was the only plural wife of Smith to turn

east and play some role in the coming civil war – which she probably thought to be a picnic compared to her life as the wife of three husbands.	
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Polygamy

~ Part 3 of 4

(July 24, 2007)

So far we've discussed Fanny Alger and Lucinda Pendleton – two interesting figures in LDS history.

Prior to obtaining and translating the golden plates, the Smith family was friendly with another family by the last name of Beamon.

They were known to hunt for buried treasure together, with Father Beamon recognized as a successful “rodsman” and “scryer.”

Later, when Joseph Smith Jr. announced the retention of golden plates from the earth, Father Beamon assisted him in finding places to hide them.

The Beaman family – who had a daughter named Louisa, accepted the Mormon gospel – probably at the hands of Joseph Young and his brother Brigham Young, and even gave Joseph Smith, Jr. a place to stay in their home in 1834 when Louisa was nineteen or twenty years old.

Louisa wrote that the conversation Joseph provided was “meat and drink to me.”

In the same year, Father Beamon was advised by Joseph Smith to move his family to Kirtland, Ohio – which he did.

But three years later he died, and Louisa and her mother and sister ultimately landed in Nauvoo, Illinois in 1839, when Louisa was 24 years old.

A year later her mother died and it was then that Joseph revealed to Louisa's brother in law (a man last named Noble) what he called "the Principle" or "the plurality of wives."

Joseph said that "an angel of the Lord had commanded him (Smith) in the said order of marriage."

He then asked Noble to officiate in marrying his sister-in-law, Louisa, to him, adding:

"In revealing this to you, I have placed my life in your hands, therefore do not in an evil hour betray me to my enemies."

Louisa, being a true disciple of Smith, agreed to participate, and dressing up as a man, retired to the woods one evening, and was wed polygamously to Smith by Noble. She was 26, Smith was 35 when she became wife number 4.

In a court testimony in 1892, Noble reported that after he had married Smith to his sister in law, he said to him:

"Blow out the lights and get into bed, and you will be safer there . . . and he took my advice." But Noble also testified that he did not see the couple actually getting into bed together, but that *"Smith told me they did."*

LDS Author Tood Compton writes:

"There is no good reason to doubt that Louisa's marriage to Smith included sexuality."

When asked under oath, *"Where did Joseph and Louisa sleep together?"* he testified, *"Right straight across the river at my house they slept together."*

After Joseph Smith died, Louisa became a polygamous wife of one of the leading “brethren” of the Church – Brigham Young.

Interestingly enough, and for reasons not completely understood, when Joseph was shot and killed, the ruling members of the Church – especially Brigham Young and Heber C Kimball stepped forward and made his wives their own – if they could.

Of Joseph’s polygamous wives, Brigham married seven to nine of them; HCKimball married eleven; George A Smith and Amasa Lyman married one each, and other prominent church leaders took some for themselves.

Louisa was “sealed” to Brigham Young for time, with Young standing in as proxy for the deceased Joseph Smith, whom she was sealed to for “eternity.”

Louisa bore Young twins – Hyrum and Joseph. Both died.

She bore him another son whom they named Moroni who died in his childhood of “teething and canker.”

She bore another set of twins from Young – whom they named Alvah and Alma.

They died too.

In 1850, Louisa began to suffer with breast cancer that went untreated.

Four horrific years later, she passed.

She was the first plural wife Joseph took unto himself in the great Mormon city of Nauvoo.

Where her sexual liaisons with Smith produced no apparent children, her subsequent marriage to Smith's successor, Brigham Young, produced a number of offspring and introduced us to the more practical polygamy the Church is known for – lots of women punching out babies from the holy loins of a single leader.

We also begin to see, in Louisa's case, trends that take hold in the lives of the women who agreed to polygamous marriage – including the absence of the husband in the home (with the exception of some brief visits) and the important social role sister wives begin to play in the life of a polygamous wife.

Where Louisa's tale of polygamy was simple and sorrowful, the story of Joseph Smith's fifth wife is categorically amazing partly because of the amount of documentation available to us about it, but moreso because of the frankly demented content.

She was born Zina Diantha Huntington.

She was a woman of great ability, possessing a profound work ethic in spite of delicate health and was afforded a substantive Christian upbringing as a child.

Her early journal writings present her as being intelligent, warm, but highly fanatical when it came to religious themes.

In 1831, when she was ten years old, her father, a strict Presbyterian decided that none of the churches on the earth were right.

As you recall, this common opinion of the day was known as “primitivism” or an attitude of a “restorationist.”

When Mr. Huntington heard the name “prophet” associated with Joseph Smith, he was anxious to meet him.

Not able to, a neighbor traveled and returned with this news:

“A prophet is once again on the earth.”

He also brought with him a Book of Mormon.

We get a glimpse into Zina’s emotional state as she recorded her thoughts after just physically touching the Book of Mormon. She wrote:

“I saw the Book of Mormon, that strange, new book, lying on the window sill of our sitting room. I went up to the window, picked it up, and the sweet influence of the Holy Spirit accompanied it to such an extent that I pressed it to my bosom in a rapture of delight, murmuring as I did so, “This is the truth, truth, truth!”

Sounds like the perfect candidate for Mormonism and polygamy to me.

After having a “heavenly vision” Zina was baptized by Hyrum Smith when she was fourteen.

Zina was gifted with many spiritual giftings including overpowering spiritual manifestations in the woods, speaking in tongues (which she did her entire life and became one of the churches most prolific expressors) and even raising a dead man to life.

In 1836, Joseph Smith (once again) counseled her father to sell his absolutely exquisite farm and land and to move to Kirtland, Ohio.

This they did.

Surprisingly, the family, though supposedly strict Presbyterians, believed the temple in Kirtland to be just like the temple in Jerusalem (it's so surprising to me when faithful LDS honestly make this unbelievable assumption) and Zina had a few experiences of "seeing" angels singing inside.

Once in the presence of Joseph, the well-heeled father of Zina put most of their money in his Kirtland anti-bank and lost it all.

In 1837 he lost his land too.

The family suffered great financial hardship, even to the point of going hungry at times, but helping to offset such woe was the fact that Mr. Huntington was made a high counselor, which would be the equivalent of a General Authority in the Church today.

The family then moved to Missouri, where Zina wrote that it was akin to the "Exodus" found in the Bible.

They relocated a year later to Nauvoo Illinois where Zina's mother died.

The family was so sick many couldn't attend the funeral. Because of their illness, Joseph invited them to live with he and Emma.

This is just another instance where Joseph picked a wife from people who lived with him before.

Ironically, Zina actually met her first husband while living under Joseph's roof.

His name was Henry Jacobs, who was described in several places as being very handsome.

Henry was a seventy in the Church and was called to serve many missions once he was married. (He served one before).

While living with Joseph and grieving over the loss of her mother, Zina was comforted by Joseph. She asked the prophet if she would know her as her mother in the next life?

"Certainly you will," he replied. "More than that, you will meet and become acquainted with your eternal Mother, the wife of your Father in Heaven."

"And have I then a Mother in Heaven" exclaimed the teenager.

Joseph replied. "You assuredly have. How could a Father claim his title unless there were also a Mother to share that parenthood?"

As a point of history, a woman named Eliza R Snow learned of this special extra-biblical doctrine soon afterward and wrote a favorite Mormon hymn: O, My Father, where she is addressing her heavenly father AND mother in prayer.

Family tradition – which reveals an exceptional propensity toward heavenly visions – states that Zina's mother visited her several times from the grave to give her messages.

After the death of Zina's mother, her father married Lydia Partridge, who had

two daughters who would both become polygamous wives of Joseph.

So here is Zina, romantically in love with a man she is courting named Henry Jacobs.

And somewhere while being courted by the handsome Jacobs, Joseph the prophet introduces to her “the Principle” and then he asks her to marry him!

Zina was torn on a number of accounts. First, she firmly believed Joseph was a prophet.

Second, she was in love with Jacobs.

Third, she probably respected Emma, and knew Emma would never agree to such an arrangement.

It seems Zina put the prophet off either by not answering his proposal or flatly rejecting it.

Now Joseph was not accustomed to rejection. And it often made him not only more determined, but frequently caused him to invoke the name of God in the matter.

Of the dilemma, Zina wrote:

O dear Heaven, grant me wisdom! Help me know the way!

In early 1841, she made her choice – she would marry the handsome Henry Jacobs.

Henry was close to Joseph – as was Zina – and the two asked Joseph to marry them. He agreed.

But when the moment came, Joseph did

show, so the mayor of Nauvoo – John C. Bennett – performed the ceremony.

Not too many days later, the newlyweds ran into Joseph on the street and asked why he hadn't shown to marry them.

With brazenchutzpah Joseph stated:

"The LORD made it known to me that you (Zina) is supposed to be my celestial wife." Smith also suggested that she and Henry could continue to live together in earthly matrimony.

It seems Henry was amiable to the proposal but Zina resisted.

In October of the same year, however, Joseph sent Zina's brother to her with a message. It said:

"An angel with a drawn sword has stood over Smith and told him that if he did not establish polygamy" he would lose his petition and his life."

At seven months pregnant, Zina acquiesced. And her writing essentially stopped.

Henry and Zina continued to live together as husband and wife, though a week after their sons birth, Henry was sent on a mission to Chicago. A year later, he was called to another 3 month mission to New York, arriving home in October.

Six months later, he was sent to Tennessee to campaign for Joseph Smith presidential aspirations.

During this time, Zina picked writing back up and while Henry was out of state, recorded that she and her "husband" attended a Masonic ritual together. Her

husband in all probability being Joseph Smith.

Shortly thereafter, Joseph was shot.

Compton writes that Zina and her children with Henry were sealed to Smith, but that she remained Henry's for time.

Now after Joseph was meeting his maker, if the woman he was sealed to had a faithful LDS earthly husband, she would remain married to him for time.

If she had no earthly husband, or, if her earthly husband was inactive or unfaithful in the Church, an apostle would stand in as proxy for Joseph for an eternal sealing and as an earthly proxy for himself.

This was true except with the case of Zina and Brigham Young.

Zina had a faithful husband in the LDS church – Henry Jacobs. But Brigham Young insisted that he stand in as a proxy in her eternal sealing to Joseph.

Huntington Family tradition records that Brigham Young said "If you would marry me, you would get to a higher glory."

All I can say is Holy freaking schnit.

So in September of 1844, she married Brigham Young but continued living with Henry.

Three months later, Henry was made president of the Seventy and was sent on a mission.

Two weeks later Zina was "endowed" by Brigham Young without Henry present in the state.

After the Saints left Nauvoo for Winter Quarters, while Henry was on another mission, Zina and Brigham began living together as husband and wife.

Henry was notified of this by letter.

On his way home from the mission, Henry wrote that he felt all alone – and he was.

He penned loving and affectionate letters to Zina. Which went unanswered.

Upon his return from the mission Brigham sent him on, Henry sealed three women to his companion WW Phelps and had another woman sealed to himself.

A court was held on them at Winter Quarters. Phelps was excommunicated and Henry was “silenced.”

In time, Zina, who was now tied to Brigham Young and distanced from her first love, spent time with Brigham Young, discussing, among other things, “*Joseph’s kingdom.*”

One of her journal entries reads:

“Attended meeting all day. Elder Taylor spoke beautifully. The President (BYoung) addressed us like a Father and a God.”

Utah polygamy brought trials of loneliness and the appearance of favoritism.

Zina wrote:

No one will know the hours of painful loneliness that I saw day and night.

In April of 1850, while living on old log

row, a series of small hutch cabins stuck behind Brigham's Lion house that still stands there on the corner of South and East Temple, Zina bore him a daughter.

A letter from Henry near that time shows he was still favorable to the church, but in February of 1851, he was disfellowshipped after Brigham Young met with his local authorities.

Rumor has it that he was disciplined for trying to win Zina back.

By September of 1851 Zina moved into the Lion House, a vertical promotion which was standard operation in polygamous homes, and Henry remarried.

Henry was then and thereafter described as a "man of sorrows."

Zina spent the rest of her days touring and promoting the wonders of polygamy.

Todd Compton states that clearly, linkage to Joseph Smith was seen as a necessity for "complete salvation."

In February of 1898, Zina's brother described her as "unsound" and a little demented.

She died at 80 years of age in 1901.

And in a final irony, she was buried not next to Brigham Young, not near Joseph Smith, but in a plot next to Henry and the Sons they had together.

Rebirth

(July 31, 2007)

<p>Several weeks ago we had a caller ask about the “White Horse Prophecy”</p> <p>I made the comment that I didn’t believe the concept came from Joseph himself.</p> <p>Unsure of my information, I tried to give the LDS Church the benefit of the doubt.</p> <p>I was wrong.</p> <p>And a number of you have written to show me how.</p> <p>These people include:</p> <p>But Marlene from Utah Lighthouse Ministries sent me a link to their very reputable website at www.utlm.org</p> <p>Bottom line, Joseph Smith did make the prophecy, LDS leaders and prophets HAVE recited this prophecy over the years, AND today they are doing their best to back-peddle on the issue and suggest that it was never said!</p> <p>This is disturbing on a number of accounts.</p> <p>First – and most importantly – I was tricked AGAIN by them. I gave them the benefit of the doubt and even echoed their public renunciation of it.</p> <p>They are lying . . . AGAIN!</p>	<p>Read email and info from Sandra Tanners site.</p> <p>In summary, this is what Sandra Tanner said:</p>
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Why?

Well this is another disturbing subject – they are lying because they don't want people to truly know their hearts and minds when it comes to national politics.

Mitt Romney and his supporters would love to bury this sacred belief because outside of Mormonism it is quite terrifying to embrace.

Here lies perhaps the MOST disturbing thing about their lie – it is to cover and shade the true LDS heart – that the LDS Church will be the institution, through its elders – so save this country from destruction.

With the constitution hanging by a thread, Mormon Elders will run for office, win, and save the United States of America's constitution.

Now here's the scary thing – I think the prophecy could be true! I think that Joseph may have gotten this prediction right. Where it came from I don't know, but I could see this happening.

Look at the public sway they have today! Look at their power, their image, their scrubbed exterior!

I think – with the well intended help of some persuasive and popular evangelicals – the LDS Church could rise and take over!

And what would it mean?

Control.
Manipulation.

<p>A fourth Reich. With Mormonism seeping under the very fabric of our lives.</p> <p>This idea, this utopian ideal, is straight from the pages of 1984.</p> <p>And Jesus – the Americanized, sanitized, Elder Brother Jesus – will lead the way, with a flag in one hand and a bar-coded temple recommend in the other.</p>	
<p>Many of you know that I also host a show called the Infallible Word which airs on Monday evenings at 9:30 and Friday evenings at 8:30.</p> <p>We have been going verse by verse through the Gospel of John.</p> <p>Strange as this may sound to the Christian or LDS ear, I believe in a sort of “Synergistic Zeitgeist” that God uses in my life to teach me.</p> <p>This is not “burning in my bosom” but is more like a layering of situations where God speaks to me intellectually and spiritually.</p> <p>I experience a sort-of “syncopation of information that kind-of intersect with each other – like the warp and weft of a finely woven fabric.</p> <p>There is integrity to the thoughts.</p> <p>It is at these intersections of warp and weft where I am able to see and confirm “things of substance” in the crossroads of my life.</p> <p>I pray daily for reality to reveal itself to me – to “see” and “hear” the realities of God.</p>	

I desire nothing more than to have the ability to see the reality of everything before me – in people, in opportunities, in information and direction.

As I have had the blessing to teach from the gospel of John, I have at the same time have been receiving emails from LDS people whose questions and circumstances seem to abnormally “fit” into doctrinal categories discussed in John.

At the same time, I also meet people in person who are facing similar questions and concerns, I’m hearing music that addresses these issues, reading other books that speak of these issues, and even randomly watch films that tie in them cinematically.

Some call this Kismet.
Some say it is coincidence or serendipity.

I ascribe it all to God.

Of late I have received several questions from inquiring Latter-day Saints about the Bible and being Born-Again.

We get these questions because our ministry believes that spiritual rebirth of the individual is perhaps THE MOST important event in the life of a person seeking God.

Once they have found God, it is the walking with Him, but for those seeking God, spiritual rebirth is the unequivocal mandate.

<p>The questions include:</p> <p><i>Besides the story of Jesus and Nicodemus, where else does it speak about being Born-Again in the Bible?</i></p> <p><i>How do you know you are born-again?</i></p> <p><i>What is the process, if any, to spiritual rebirth?</i></p> <p><i>Can a Christian lose their salvation?</i></p> <p>I'd like to take a moment tonight and address each of these questions. And I want to ask you to do me a favor.</p> <p>Will you get up right now and get a pencil and paper. I will wait 15 seconds for you to do this.</p> <p>Please. Go on. Hurry.</p> <p>Okay?</p>	
<p>First, besides in the Gospel of John, where else does the Bible speak of being born-again?</p>	<p><i>Ezekiel 36:26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.</i></p> <p><i>Jeremiah 32:39 And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them:</i></p> <p><i>40 And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they</i></p>

shall not depart from me.

Ezekiel 11:19 And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:

Psalms 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Jeremiah 31:33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

1st Corinthian 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

1st Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

James 1:18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

At the conclusion of our show, we have always run a passage out of John which reads:

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

John 1:13 Which were born, not of

<p>The next question is often:</p>	<p><i>blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.</i></p> <p>(Explain this)</p> <p>THEN . . .</p> <p>The LDS song” I am a Child of God” by virtue of what it reads here in John and in these other verse, is misleading.</p> <p>It says:</p> <p><i>I am a child of God. And He has sent me here. Has given me an earthly home. With parents kind and dear.</i></p> <p>WHOOAA!</p> <p>In light of the consistent Biblical message the song should go:</p> <p><i>I am a creature of God, Separated at birth from Him, I’m living in a fallen world, and need rebirth from sin.</i></p> <p><i>This is the good news. We are sinners. God sent His Son to reconcile us to Him. We accept Him by faith, are regenerated, and walk with Him as our Guide.</i></p> <p><i>There is NOTHING MORE AND NOTHING LESS.</i></p>
<p>“What is the process, if any, to spiritual rebirth?”</p>	<p>I want to give you seven passages of scripture for YOU to look up and read.</p>

I didn't get them from a concordance. I found them all tucked away in scripture. They gently reveal what most Christians would call "the process of spiritual rebirth."

Titus 3:3-8

For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

(Discuss)

Okay, how about another?

Hebrews 10:19-24

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, {boldness: or, liberty}

20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

21 And having an high priest over the house of God;

22 Let us draw near with a true heart in

full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering.

(DISCUSS)

John 8:30-32

As he spake these words, many believed on him.

31 ¶ Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

(DISCUSS)

Colossians 2:6

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

(PRETTY SIMPLE, EH?)

How about a few concepts that perfectly illustrate this process and event in the Word?

John 10:1-18

Jesus gives an illustration where He says

1 He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

2 But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

Then He goes on and says . . .

	<p><i>I am the door of the sheepfold.</i></p> <p>And then He also says . . .</p> <p><i>I am the Good Shepherd!</i></p> <p>How is He the door that the Shepherd must go through and How is He the Shepherd too?</p> <p>Listen! Listen!</p> <p>He is the door by which you enter heaven and are saved. READ Chapter 10 PLEASE.</p> <p>And once you have entered through the door, He THEN becomes the Shepherd to lead you through life on His terms – not your own.</p> <p>This is what Christianity teaches, my friends!</p> <p>Jesus gives salvation. Then Jesus teaches you to walk with Him.</p> <p>Compare that to the breakfasts you've been eating.</p> <p>How about one more, huh? Just one more.</p> <p>Luke 15</p> <p>All like Sheep have gone astray.</p> <p>And what happens here? Jesus – the Good Shepherd – comes out and rescues us. We are not seeking, He is finding!</p> <p>But then . . . but then . . . he gives the parable of the lost coin.</p> <p>It didn't lose itself. It was lost in the</p>
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<p>Third question:</p>	<p>darkness of the world, in the corners of the fallen house.</p> <p>Tarnish would darken it forever if it wasn't found quickly.</p> <p>This is the fluctuating state we all find ourselves in as Christians. And here is where the edict to go after the lost is applied.</p>
<p>How do you know you are born-again?</p>	<p>(See book list) Duck example Spiritual signs “Miracle of the moment followed by the tasks of a lifetime.”</p>
<p>Can a Christian lose their salvation?</p>	<p>A new Christian – no. They are babes, and the grace of God has them. As they grow and mature, he gives them less milk and more meat.</p> <p>A Mature Christian – the Bible tends to say yes.</p> <p>HEBREWS 10:26-29</p> <p><i>For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,</i> <i>27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.</i> <i>28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:</i> <i>29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite</i></p>

	<i>unto the Spirit of grace?</i>
	SUMMARY Jesus did in fact tell Nicodemus. You MUST be born again. I've given you plenty of basis to see that it is a viable request. The REAL question is: Are you? If you are not, go to the Lord in prayer. Confess yourself a sinner, ask for His forgiveness, ask Him to become Lord and Savior of your life, and tell Him you give all of your life to Him. You can do this in the privacy of your own home or with a pastor. You can call the show and I will pray with you. But no matter how you do it, if you are honest in your heart, He will be faithful not only to forgive you, but to forever be your Lord and King.

Polygamy

~ Part 4 of 4

(August 7, 2007)

Want to add some humorous LDS writings to your search for truth. There are a number of sites that contain some pretty funny stuff but I have to tell you about a guy who goes by the name Mortimer Knavelly. I am pretty sure he either is or had been LDS and his expository writings regarding issues in the Church are so funny I have a hard time finishing them – from lack of oxygen.

Get him out at www.mortimerknavelly.com

A young teen I am quite familiar with attended an LDS youth conference testimony meeting last Sunday.

This is an event where the teens get up and share what the LDS call their “testimony” meaning what they know or believe is true and vitally important to their spiritual lives.

This teen decided to take some notes and make a statistical analysis.

Not including what the teen called “the suffix” mention of Jesus which is typically present at the conclusion of a traditional LDS public profession, gratitude, allegiance, belief in and/or love for Jesus was mentioned by seven youth speakers – out of forty-seven.

You tell me if change is needed in Mormonism today.

I was going to move on tonight and leave Joseph Smith's polygamous activities and its results for another year.

But I thought I would use this time to put sort of summarize Joseph's dalliances, and then return to the subject when we get to Brigham Young in Salt Lake City.

So far, we've covered the lives of his first four wives. Tonight, I will cover the life of the fifth, and then call it quits.

But remember – remember – though Todd Compton decided to research thirty-three women which he could seriously document, D. Michael Quinn, Fawn Brodie, and George D. Smith list forty-six, forty-three, and forty-eight respectively –

With all of us forgetting that ONE extra wife is TOO MUCH.

I mentioned a few shows ago that I had the opportunity to meet with a young man who was raised in a polygamous family and who came to Squatter's Pub one night with another girl he was pursuing.

He is the one who, when I asked about how difficult polygamy must be on the wives said: "Salvation doesn't come easy."

When I asked him about the why's for his polygamous heart, he made several revealing statements:

"Because God commanded it through the prophet Joseph Smith and the LDS Church turned over in order to please Babylon."

"So which church – the LDS or the FLDS – is really following Mormon doctrine?"

<p>“Us.” he replied.</p> <p>And he was right.</p> <p>“Well, what is it about polygamy that makes it so, so beneficial?” I asked.</p> <p>“It is the best situation for children,” came the response. “I grew up with seventy five brothers and sisters and fifteen Moms. I don’t think there is a better system for raising children than this. The whole thing is a blessing to children, the family unit, and even the women and men involved, if they would just learn to submit.”</p> <p>I explained that just because something “works” does not make it right or of God. I said that Marxism works in some places and some parts of the world, but it doesn’t mean it is right. Fascism works, imperialism works, even Hilter’s master race had some promise and benefits but it didn’t make them right nor of God.</p> <p>And then I started thinking about Joseph Smith’s fifth wife – a sister of his forth wife, Zina Diantha Huntington.</p> <p>Her name was Presendia Lathrop Huntington.</p> <p>Allow me to end our present examination of Joseph Smith’s doctrine and practice of polygamy with her story.</p>	
<p>Presendia was married to a man named Norman Buell when Joseph took her as his polyandrous wife.</p>	

It seems Presendia was a Christian at heart, and in a letter her mother wrote she said that the girl had “experienced the saving change of heart.”

As mentioned, Zina and Presendia’s family were strongly Christian BEFORE they got caught up with Joseph, but carried many Christian elements of faith and practice with them throughout their lives. These elements included seeing visions, speaking in tongues, and the expression of a number of other charismatic gifts.

Presendia was 16 when she married Buell, who was 22. Her husband was a hard working farmer who truly provided for Presendia.

Prior to joining Mormonism, Presendia had several children.

In 1831, her second was toddling through the house and fell into a vat of boiling cider.

She lost her third son at birth.

In 1835 her sister Zina introduced Presendia and Norman to the Book of Mormon and soon they moved to Kirtland Ohio where they were baptized.

Norman was soon ordained an elder, and the couple began to move up the ranks within the early church.

In 1838, they traveled with Joseph on a trip to Missouri, and there moved into a primitive log cabin.

Presendia gave birth to another child, a baby girl, who died shortly thereafter.

Four children between them – three dead.

While in Missouri, Norman became disaffected from the Church, and refused to buy into it all any longer.

This was terribly difficult for Presendia, but she remained by her side. He too, remained faithful to her and hardworking for their family.

He soon built them a new home and moved them from out of the log hut and woods.

Norman was a good husband but Presendia wanted a faithful LDS husband.

When her father and brothers went to visit Joseph in Liberty jail, Presendia decided to join them with dinner in tow.

She visited him on another occasion and Joseph even wrote to her from prison. The letter was not salacious but instead expressed the friendship he felt toward she and Norman.

When Presendia's family left the state, she and Norman remained behind. Several of her letters are filled with a yearning to know how "brother Joseph was doing."

Compton suggests that family members were taking Presendia aside when she was visiting them and advising her to leave Norman.

In 1840, Presendia bore her sixth child, who actually lived to maturity and she and the family moved to Lima Illinois, about 30 miles outside of the now Mormon establishment of Nauvoo.

One year later, Joseph Smith married Presendia's sister, Zina, who we talked about two weeks ago, and about the same

time is said to have introduced “The Principle” to her sister, Presendia.

Writes Wells:

“Joseph himself taught the principle of plural marriage to Sister Presendia, and her heart was humble, and her mind open to receive the revelations of heaven. She knew Joseph to be a man of God, and she had received many manifestations in proof of this, and consequently, when he explained to her clearly the knowledge which he had obtained from the Lord, she accepted the sealing ordinance with Joseph as a sacred and holy confirmation.”

It is important to understand the dynamics of this whole plural marriage event.

First, there was the rush of knowing you had other women who were desirous to be cemented to you forever.

Whoa.

Then, there was the sort-of special Gnostic vibe that came with being part of the elite inner-circle of the ultimate faithful.

Wells also wrote that Presendia and other of Smith’s wives felt like they belonged to a small but select group of the spiritually elite, *“separate and apart from all others. Their minds were more expanded, new light had burst upon them, and they were buoyed up by a spirit which they scarcely understood.”*

I bet they were.

In addition to the elated emotions of being elite, there were added benefits of accepting “the Principle.”

Dimick Huntington was the one who secretly sealed his sisters to Joseph Smith.

Oliver Huntington, another brother of Presendia, Zina, and Dimick wrote:

Soon after Dimick had given our sisters Zina and Presendia to Joseph as wives for eternity, Joseph offered Dimick any reward he wanted.

Dimick's request *"that where you are your fathers family are, Joseph, that there I and my fathers family will be."*

Compton reports that

"relatives of Smith's plural wives were often awarded increased salvation after helping to arrange a plural marriage."

Not many months later, Presendia lost another child to what they called "Summers complaint."

Shortly thereafter, Joseph was killed.

As mentioned, HCK jumped in on Presendia and made her his wife even though she was still wed to Norman, who was by this time considered an heretic.

After receiving her endowment in Nauvoo, she was resealed to Joseph Smith with HCK standing in a proxy for the fallen prophet, and then she was sealed to Kimball for time.

HCK had 35 wives at the time. For the next few months, Presendia would continue to actually live with the man to whom she was first wed – Norman.

But because Norman would not follow the

Saints in Nauvoo, her brother-in-law, in all holy seriousness, wrote that Presendia left him and followed after “her Lord!” meaning Heber C Kimball.

Does this not reveal the whole premise of “The Principle?” To make women wives and to make them subservient to a man who becomes “their Lord?”

Holy hells bells, people. Wake the freak up! This is NOT Christianity. This is man-centered, male-dominated humanism . . . at its best!

As I reviewed my notes on this subject, written maybe a year ago, I found that I wrote:

“As an organization, the LDS Church claims it stands for families, but here, in the case of Norman and Presendia’s family, it reveals that the Church only stands for families ACTIVE in the CHURCH!

When a parent becomes an apostate, families fly out the window and spouses – even spouses in marriages with children – are told to abandon ship! Do they really attempt to break up couples and families over the Church?

The answer is YES. Absolutely.

Traveling at night, Presendia left Norman and their sixteen year old son without warning or notice.

She received word that Norman was almost crazy when he learned he lost her to the Mormon movement headed west.

Presendia then entered Heber C Kimball’s extended “family Kingdom.”

Before his death in 1868, he would have married 45 women all together. Because of demands on his time, Heber could not provide for these wives, and they were often left to fend for themselves.

Sixteen of these women left him because of the indifference shown toward their personal sustenance.

It also became very apparent very quickly that Heber had his favorites. Practical Polygamy revealed that a natural result of the Principle was a bond between sisters, and a hierarchy – which usually included where each wife would live. The more favored the wife, the nicer her living conditions.

Presendia found herself having to earn her own living, which she did teaching school and tending house for others.

Prior to the trek west to Utah, Norman traveled to Winter Quarters and begged her to return to the family. She refused, keeping her marriage to Kimball a secret, thereby giving Norman hope that she might wait for him in Utah.

As an interesting side note, and just for your information, Presendia was set apart by Willard Richards to do sealings, washings, and anointings. She was know to lay hands on men and give them all manner of blessings.

Once in Utah, in 1849, Presendia bore a child to HCK. Her name was Presendia Celestia. Listen to the care that was taken to assist in the comforts of a pregnant plural wife:

She wrote:

“The house was so primitive that they had

to put an umbrella over the bed to protect herself and the child from rain.”

When Celestia was just a child, she drown in the City Creek, not to far from this station.

The seventh unexpected child death Presendia would face.

She went into a deep depression. And her health turned poor. Accounts state that she nearly died.

Less than a year later she was pregnant again.

When she was 41 she gave birth to her last son. His name?

Joseph Smith Kimball.

By 1857 she was living in a semi-communal home with other wives of HCK.

Like the Lord he was, HCK would frequently make demands for having one wife moved in and another moved out.

But his favorite wife, Vilate, who was his first, always lived in the big white house and was never required to move.

When told by HCK to move to Provo, Presendia wrote:

“It is annoying to be obliged (by HCK) to submit to it again.”

But she moved as instructed.

She later got a bit tired of his Lordships decisions and wrote to him:

Brother Kimball,

"When I make this move today I shall have moved twenty-one times by your request."

Salvation does come hard for the polygamous wife, doesn't it?

Nevertheless, Presendia remained faithful to "the Principle" and its charismatic author.

On June 27 1859, she and some other wives of Joseph gathered and commemorated Joseph Smith's death.

They hiked to the summit of Ensign Peak and there made an altar of stone and knelt around it. Presendia wrote:

"We offered up our prayers to God and thanks that he had raised up a prophet in these last days and the Gospel had been restored to the earth, and that we had been of the few that had received the truth."

They then sang and blessed each other and noted that they felt Joseph's presence there."

On June 22nd 1868, HCK died of a head injury.

A child was left at her doorstep who became to her another "daughter." But like the others, this child died too within a few years.

In November of 1873, Presendia stood in as proxy as seven dead women were sealed to Joseph Smith.

In a final letter she wrote to her sister wife, Mary Lightner Smith, Joseph, of course was mentioned.

<p>Jesus was not.</p> <p>She died in 1892 in SLC at the age of 81.</p>	
<p>Eight years after the death of Joseph Smith, the LDS church publicly announced the practice of “the Principle.”</p> <p>It was read in a general conference by Apostle Orson Pratt.</p> <p>Brigham Young made polygamy rather practical, having 55 of his own wives and 56 children.</p>	
<p>People often ask why the LDS continued to practice polygamy once Joseph died?</p> <p>Let me conclude with some statements that were made about “the Principle” and with some history about polygamy in the state.</p>	

2 Hour Special

(August 14, 2007)

<p>Thumbing through a magazine that caters to LDS intellectual types, I came across a cartoon.</p> <p>Cartoons can be used to humorously address the reality of an otherwise sticky or difficult situation.</p> <p>This cartoon has a young girl kneeling beside her bed in a posture of prayer, her hands are clasped and she is looking toward heaven and the caption reads:</p> <p>Just another – another – working example of LDS teachings that lead FROM the true and living God and TO something else.</p>	
<p>Last week I was handed a very revealing compilation that I said I would share with you tonight.</p> <p>I was told that these quotes were given by people who claim to be Christians.</p> <p>Let me read them to you and then you ask yourself who you think these quotes are about:</p> <p>So who do you think these statements are referring to?</p> <p>These are statements Catholic believers have said about the Pope! Can you believe it? (BEAT)</p> <p>What do you think?</p>	

<p>We'll don't believe it because that is not true.</p> <p>Actually, these are statements made by Lutherans about Martin Luther . . . don't believe this either.</p> <p>Muslims about Mohammed? Nooooo.</p> <p>How about statements from Mormons about Joseph Smith?</p> <p>Ding ding ding ding ding!</p> <p>That's right, amazingly enough, these quotes are about the man Joseph Smith!</p> <p>Now when the LDS are confronted with these statements they might respond by saying "<i>Well, the members are not perfect, you know, they get carried away and don't speak for the Church.</i>"</p> <p>Well let's see what Latter-day Saints provided us with the quotes!</p> <p>BOTTOM-LINE: The near-deification of Joseph comes from the top. If this doesn't prove it, I don't know what will.</p> <p>If you EVER heard a Christian make a comment like this about another MAN – run.</p>	
<p>Many of you are aware that I take a number of flights each month.</p> <p>In the past 17 months, I've had the pleasure of over 280 take offs and landings.</p>	

With this much air travel, I've also had the privilege of being privy to a number of airplane conversations.

Yes, I eavesdrop.

Now imagine for a moment that you are sitting in an aisle seat listening to two strangers converse.

What do they talk about? This is an intriguing subject to me.

I think these conversations reveal what is in people's hearts.

I generally don't speak to people unless they want to speak to me first, with the exception of saying hello or excuse me.

And because I am usually sitting on an aisle seat and generally board the plane last, the two people sitting in the middle seat and the window seat typically carry on the conversation – if there is one.

Now, when men get together, they are generally trying to “network” or “brag about their latest business deals.

Unless they are Christians. Then the conversation often turns to Jesus or God or the Bible or this sermon or that.

If the passengers are women, they are generally expressive about their children, their homes, and travel . . . unless they are genuine Christians – because then they too end up talking about Jesus, the Lord, God . . . and their children relative to Him.

I've long wanted to take notes on the

conversations I have heard the LDS travelers have – I think it is quite revealing to hear the differences between the conversations two Christians will conduct and two Latter-day Saints.

Last Saturday, I listened intently - and took notes) on the conversation two females (who were strangers to each other) maintained on the flight.

Let me say that in the course of their conversation I learned that these women and their families were very active in their LDS ward and stakes, had been married in the temple, and were true believers in so far as I could tell by their expressions – and the CTR ring on one of their hands.

One woman was a young mother holding a male toddler on her lap.

The other was a middle aged woman who mentioned having a youngest child who was in his twenties.

The first **10 minutes** were spent talking about children – in particular the younger woman’s active little boy.

Then there was **four minutes** of a general discussion about “the Church.”

Four more minutes more were devoted to their past and present callings in the church.

Five minutes were then dedicated to their views about their present wards, relief societies, primarys and youth group leaders.

A full ten minutes were given to the topic of their homes and property, loan-

types, and things related to personal finances and equity accumulation.

The **next five or so minutes** were about their own respective upbringings – their parents and their relation to “the Church” today. Both of their parents, by the way, were still “active as can be!”

Then, for **five minutes**, the conversation somehow slipped into a strange discussion about animal bites and stings, including a rather graphic story about a woman who was recently stung by a stingray.

I’ve been stung by a stingray. I shared in her pain.

Three minutes were dedicated to their respective husbands.

Then **a full 11 minutes** was devoted to the very intriguing topic of boating and R.Ving – with each of these church-sisters confidently sharing how they had either owned a boat at one time in their life or currently own a boat now.

There was a full five seconds of silence.

Then **seven minutes** then passed with a discussion about sports – primarily volleyball – which then melded into a three minute discussion about height – which was initiated by a question posited by the younger woman: “How tall are you?” She asked.

This question was answered and then followed up with, “How tall are you?”

All very edgy stuff.

Then they went back to some individual volleyball war stories for two or **three more minutes**.

Child bearing came up – the actual process, believe it or not – which lasted a full **14 minutes** – I never knew so much could be involved! The pushing here, the forceps there – when are we going to land!

Oddly, this exchange was then followed by a **five minute** treatise on what kind of work the other does?

Then came "What does your husband do?" Not much to say there. And then the subject turned to temples, and I actually heard one of them state: "I think the San Diego is the prettiest. Which one is your favorite?"

This was the conversation highlight for me.

After naming several pretty temples, and shaming a few they each found unattractive, the topic accelerated into "Which temple were you married in (which lasted a **full seven minutes**) followed by a brief commentary on the traffic patterns in Los Angeles, and then by the question "Where did your husband serve his mission?"

There was a bump, the plane had landed, and I'm pretty sure the conversation ended there.

I left that flight reminded of the words of the LORD as found in Luke

"for of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."

And for some strange reason I thought

<p>about the fleeing nature of life.</p> <p>I wondered about my conversations.</p> <p>I just thought I would share this with you tonight.</p>	
<p>Let's have a word of Prayer</p>	<p>Current events?</p> <p>Bless Sandra and Doris Viewers and channel surfers Staff and volunteers</p>
<p>Before Sandra Tanner and Doris Hanson join me here on set, I want to provide some historical background information on polygamy in Mormonism and the State of Utah:</p> <p>(READ DOCUMENTATION)</p>	
<p>INTRODUCTION OF SANDRA TANNER:</p> <p><i>Sandra, take a minute if your would and tell the audience about who you are, where you came from, and why you are here:</i></p>	
<p>INTRODUCTION OF DORIS HANSON:</p> <p><i>Doris, if you could, in brief, share your story with the audience:</i></p>	
<p>We've touched on polygamy here on our show and over the past three or four weeks have talked about the wives and lives of five of Joseph Smith's</p>	

<p>extra-marital marriages.</p>	<p>Question: <i>From ALL of your knowledge, experience, study and research, why do you think Joseph initiated the practice and why do you think Brigham Young continued it?</i></p> <p>Sandra:</p> <p>Doris:</p>
<p>Richard Bushman, LDS author of Rough Stone Rolling, said the following in an interview on PEW:</p> <p><i>“In actual fact, polygamy seemed to have served a function in society. We now have a fine-grained study of polygamy in one community where we know every family in the community and everything about them. And what polygamy seems to have been was a way in which young women without male protection, no father, no older brother, no near relative to care for <u>them were absorbed</u> into Mormon society.”</i></p>	<p>Thoughts?</p>
<p>From my observations, the LDS leaders have been very evasive and misleading on the present-day Churches position on plural marriage today.</p> <p>Let me give you some quotes from Gordon B Hinckley’s interview with Larry King and hear your thoughts:</p> <p><i>“The (Church) has nothing to do with it.” “It has had nothing to do with it for a very long time,” and “It’s behind us.”</i></p> <p>Is polygamy behind the LDS Church today?</p>	<p>Sandra?</p> <p>Doris?</p> <p><i>Talk to me about your thoughts on the</i></p>

<p>King then point blank made the statement: <i>"You condemn it."</i></p> <p>To which Hinckley replied:</p> <p><i>"I condemn it, yes, as a practice, because I think it is not doctrinal. It is not legal. And this church takes the position that we will abide by the law."</i></p>	<p><i>topic of "Lying for the Lord?"</i> (see article)</p> <p>Is the practice doctrinal?</p>
<p>I maintain that the spirit of Joseph Smith is embodied in the LDS church today, no matter what is said in the media.</p> <p>The leaders today say they revere him, learn from him, and are grateful to Joseph Smith for all he has done for the Gospel being available on this earth.</p> <p>QUESTION <i>If Joseph Smith were alive today, what do you suppose would be different in the Church?</i></p>	
<p>Question:</p> <p><i>I am admittedly quite terrible when it comes to social and governmental issues related to morality in our world.</i></p> <p><i>To me, the less intervention the better.</i></p> <p><i>I personally believe that adults should</i></p>	

be able to practice what they wish as long as everyone is a consenting adult – polygamy included.

My issue is the LDS Church insists on saying they have nothing to do with it, but in fact, they do – in spirit, in temple ordinances, and in accepted doctrine. I am looking for the LDS Church to be honest – that's all.

QUESTION 

Aside from wholesale collapse, what do you hope for relative to the LDS Church today?

Missionary Work

(August 21, 2007)

Many of you are aware that I fly the friendly skies quite regularly.

In the past 17 months, I've had the pleasure of participating in almost 300 take offs and landings.

With this much air travel, I've also had the privilege of being privy to a number of "travel" conversations.

Yes, I eavesdrop.

Now imagine for a moment that you are sitting in an aisle seat listening to two strangers converse.

What strangers talk about with each other is often indicative of what is most important to them.

It's like their opportunity to really impress others, to let the highlights of their lives shine.

There's a liberty of conversing with a stranger and I think there paradoxically exists both a tremendous amount of honesty in these discussions and often some role-playing.

Those who have money at the top of their priorities speak about their money.

Whatever takes up the most space in our heads and hearts generally comes out when speaking with strangers.

What people talk about is a very intriguing subject to me because from out of the mouth the heart speaks.

Now, with the exception of greeting people, I generally don't speak to adults unless they want to speak to me first.

And because I am usually sitting on an isle seat and generally board the plane last, the two people sitting in the middle seat and the window seats are the ones that typically initiate conversation with each other – if there is one at all.

When men get together, they are generally trying to “network” or “brag about their latest business deals.”

Why I . . .

And I . . .

And I bought . . .

And I sold . . .

And I've been . . .

And my . . . yada, yada, yada.

The exception seems to be when the person is a true Christian. Then the conversation often turns to Jesus or God or the Bible or missionary work.

If the passengers are women, they are generally expressive about their children, their homes, and travel . . . unless they are genuine Christians – because then they too end up talking about Jesus, the Lord, God . . . and their children . . . relative to Him.

I've taken long notes on the conversations I have heard travelers have – and two weeks ago on a flight in from LA, I took some actual notes on what I was hearing.

When I took my seat the women in my row were just getting settled in.

In the course of their initial exchange I learned that these women, their husbands, and their families were very active in their LDS ward and stakes, had been married in

the temple, and were true believers in so far as I could tell by their words.

One of them was a young mother with a toddler on her lap and a CTR ring on her left hand.

The other was a middle aged woman who mentioned having a youngest child who was in his twenties.

What did their mouths reveal about the contents of their hearts?

The first **10 minutes** were spent talking about children – in particular the younger woman's active little boy.

This seemed to serve as an ice-breaker.

Then there was **four minutes** of a general discussion about "the Church" followed by **Four more minutes** dedicated to their past and present callings in the church.

Five minutes were then dedicated to their views about their present wards, including their relief societies, Primary's and youth group leaders.

One mentioned how wonderful their Bishop was.

A full ten minutes were given to the topic of their homes and property, loan-types, and things related to personal finances and equity accumulation.

The **next five or so minutes** were about their own respective upbringings – their parents and their relation to "the Church" today. Both of these women's parents, by the way, were still "active as can be!"

Then, for **five minutes**, the conversation somehow slipped into a strange discussion

about animal bites and stings, including a rather graphic story about a woman who was recently stung by a stingray.

I've been stung by a stingray. I silently shared in her pain.

Three minutes were dedicated to their respective husbands. Relatively speaking, the husbands got very little airtime.

Then **a full 11 minutes** was devoted to the very intriguing topic of boating and R-V-ing – with each of these church-sisters confidently sharing how they had either owned a boat at one time in their life or currently own a boat now.

There was a little anxiousness in their conversation at this point with both women seeming to chomp a little at the conversational bit, intent to reveal that they were, in fact, “recreationally advanced AND BLESSED.”

Then there was a full five to **ten seconds of** silence before a seven **minute span** centered on sports – primarily volleyball – which then melded into a **three minute** discussion about height – which was initiated by a question the younger woman asked: “*How tall are you?*” She suddenly asked.

This question was answered, with a counter follow-up question from the other party and, “*How tall are you?*”

All very edgy stuff.

Then they went back to some individual volleyball war stories for two or **three more minutes**.

Child bearing came up – the actual process, believe it or not – which lasted a full **14**

minutes – the dilation, the pushing here, the forceps there – and it was truly interesting to hear a woman’s perspective about all of this stuff.

They sort

Oddly, this exchange was then followed by a **five minute** treatise on what kind of work the other does?

Then came “What does your husband do?” Again, not much to say there. And then the subject turned to temples, and I actually heard one of them state: *“I think the San Diego is the prettiest. Which one is your favorite?”*

This was the conversation highlight for me. I actually found myself wondering which temple I found the prettiest.

After naming several pretty temples, and shaming a few they each felt were unattractive, the topic accelerated into “Which temple were you married in (which lasted a **full seven minutes**) followed by a brief commentary on the traffic patterns in Los Angeles, and then by the question *“Where did your husband serve his mission?”*

There was a sudden bump, the plane had landed, the child woke, and I’m pretty sure the conversation ended there.

I left that flight reminded of the words of the LORD as found in Luke

“for of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.”

And for some strange reason I thought about the fleeing nature of life.

I wondered about my conversations.

<p>How does my mouth reflect my heart?</p> <p>I just thought I would share this with you tonight.</p>	
<p>As we've moved through Church History, I've by passed certain important elements that made and make Mormonism what it is today.</p> <p>Since the earliest days of the Church, Mormonism has actively pursued missionary work throughout the world.</p> <p>Joseph Smith received revelations early on in his formation of the Church which called men to "study the doctrines of the kingdom" in preparation to go out and preach to the people.</p> <p>Not long after the publication of the Book of Mormon, Joseph sent missionaries out and they were primarily interested, at first, with reaching the American Indians.</p> <p>Samuel Smith, Joseph Smith's brother was the first missionary the church retained.</p> <p>He took an armful of Books of Mormon and headed to upstate New York where many important LDS leaders were converted, including Brigham Young.</p> <p>These missionaries quickly learned a few things: First, their message was better received outside of the New York area (like in Ohio) and the reception of the message was much better among whites than native Americans.</p> <p>In my opinion, and in a tone quite counter to the normal stance I have regarding the doctrines and practices of Mormonism</p>	

today, the LDS Church sets the highest standard for missional activities on earth.

If you are Christian and don't appreciate this, do something about it.

Come hell, high water, disease, illness or catastrophe, Mormonism has always invested itself a continuous missionary effort.

In 1974, Mormon prophet Spencer W. Kimball issued a call that simply said "Every young man should serve a mission."

This statement helped to usher in a long pulsing push for wards and stakes to present young men ready to serve the Lord full time.

Some of the things that make the Mormon Missionary program so successful are these:

- 1) They start instilling a "mission" in the minds of boy at a very early age.
 - Bishops ask boys if they have started a missionary fund.
 - Songs Like "I Hope they call me on a mission" and "I want to be a missionary now" are sung frequently in the children's primary.
- 2) As the boys mature, lessons are often geared to "mission preparation" and these lessons escalate in frequency as the young men reach their later teen years.
- 3) The Church's seminary program is an almost built-in training ground for creating future missionaries.

In my day, a young man of almost any caliber was allowed to serve a mission. I

suppose that is why I was allowed to go.

I went to the Bishop, got all ready and prepared, submitted my papers, and waiting to hear back from Salt Lake on where I would be assigned for 2 years of my life.

(Cover the process of how missionaries are assigned to what area).

When I received my “call” it was to Harrisburg Pennsylvania.

- The genius of sending 19 year old boys.

- Time of service. (schedule)
- Time of expectation and moral reform.
- Time of getting out in world.
- Perfect time to make decisions.
- Hard to turn two scrubbed and smiling young men down when they knock on the door.

Typically, a 19 year old missionary’s zeal and enthusiasm override the need to really know the facts and to present them honestly.

LDS missionaries, like young soldiers, while very sincere, are extremely susceptible to hyperbole, lying for the Lord, and saying whatever is necessary to get a person to listen to their important message of truth.

Most of them really really believe what they are saying.

You can’t put a price on this kind of devotion.

And a devoted missionary usually – USUALLY – ends up a life-long devotee of the Church . . . unless they also happen to endlessly search for truth.

Additionally, Mormon missions are effective because not only are the missionaries prepared over the course of their young lives, they are also prepared through an MTC experience.

What started as a week long training session in a Salt Lake City home in 1925, became in 1960, due to an increase of missionaries, a Mission Language Institute which met in a Provo hotel and various BYU buildings.

Spanish was the only language taught. German and Portuguese was added later.

In 1963 the MLI became the LTM (Language Training Mission) and taught 16 different languages.

Then, in 1971, when there was 2500 missionaries being trained, it became apparent that more room was needed.

By 1973 the Church Missionary committee agreed upon a massive plan and ground was broke for a complex near BYU and the Provo temple which became known as the MTC.

It used to be that if you lived in the US you would go to train in the Provo MTC and if you lived outside the US you just reported to your mission without any formal training.

Today, there are MTC's in

Preston England.
Buenos Aires, Argentina
Sao Paulo, Brazil
Mexico City, Mexico
Santiago, Chile
Bogata, Colombia
Lima, Peru
Guatemala City, Guatemala
Hamiton, New Zealand

Manila, Philippines
Tokyo, Japan
Seoul, South Korea
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
Madrid, Spain
Accra, Ghana
Johannesburg, South Africa

This is no small force here, folks.

The majority of these missionaries have an instilled mindset to convert people to “the only true Church on the face of the earth.” Most of them are better prepared than ever before when it comes to doctrinal disputes.

And most of them will present a picture that is very attractive according to how the world views goodness and truth.

Just what do missionaries do?

They have a regimented schedule, dictated by a white handbook, which is para-military in nature.

Obedient Elders and Sisters (mention ages) obey this white handbook.

They get up when told to get up.
They study when told to study.
They only read approved materials.
They leave their apartment at a specific time, eat at a specific time, and return home at a specific time.

TALK ABOUT:

Dress.

Prep-day

Daily, weekly and monthly numbers.

- lessons taught
- appointments made
- commitment to baptisms
- baptisms

They are interviewed by their district leaders, zone leaders, assistant to the presidents, and the President himself.

In recent years, the LDS Church tightened up the qualifications for those eligible to serve a mission for the Church today.

It is the prospective missionaries Bishop's job to ensure that a young man or woman is eligible.

Disqualifying factors include:

Cannot have any dependant children
Cannot be a young couple of child bearing age.

Those who have not taken care of their debts.

Those on probation or parole.

Couples with unresolved marital problems.

Those who are HIV positive.

Those who have fathered or mothered a child out of wedlock.

Those convicted of sexual abuse.

Those who have paid for or encouraged an abortion.

Men under 26 who have been divorced.

Women under 40 who have been divorced.

And anyone who has participated in homosexual activity after the age of 15.

(All this is from the Church Handbook of Instruction: Book 1: Stake Presidencies and Bishoprics, SLC 2006 pages 92-94)

Today, there are approximately 56,000 Mormon missionaries serving in 330 organized missions throughout the world.

They are comprised mostly of young men, young women, and retired married couples.

What exactly do they do?

They teach Mormon Gospel Essentials to people in a systematic way and strive to get them to join the Mormon Church through baptism.

These Gospel Essentials barely touch below the surface of Mormonism as a whole.

In my opinion it is a numbers game to them:

The more people contacted and taught, the more people found who will bite.

From there, a certain percentage will fall away but another percentage will enjoy the commodore, the fellowship, and the benefits of being LDS.

New converts are rarely exposed to the more “enlightened” aspects of Mormonism, but are put to work very quickly, and are fellowshipped into the ward by assigned members.

At this point, the missionaries work is done.

What can the Christian community do to offset this powerfully organized and orchestrated system of influence?

I’m not sure I have an answer, other than sharing the truth in love, my friends.

Preface to Temples

(August 28, 2007)

Frequently get questions about our ministry finances and inquiries on how to contribute.

Let me respond to this with a passage of scripture:

With respect to giving, Paul writes in 2nd Corinthians 9:7 *Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*

What does this say? It says to give as YOU purpose in your heart.

Do not give grudgingly.

Do not give out of necessity. (a lot of ministries and churches will say “we’ve got to pay for this or that, so please give” or “we have this necessity or that.” To me, that is asking people to give out of necessity.

No way.

Paul concludes with a summary of God’s view:

For God loves a cheerful giver.

Our policy is this:

If God compels you to give, give. If not, don’t. God has always taken care of us through others.

Now how do you donate if so inclined?

Two ways:

Go to our website at

<p>www.bornagainmormon.com</p> <p>Click on the “Respond” page then click on support the ministry.</p> <p>OR you can send your offering to:</p> <p>Alathea Ministries, Inc. 314 South Redwood Road Salt Lake City, Utah 84104</p> <p>We appreciate all support – whether it be financial, prayer support, or just telling others about the show. It ALL helps the message get out.</p> <p>Go the way the Lord leads you and no other.</p>	
<p>Last week I told you about a documentary in the making called:</p> <p>A Mormon President.</p> <p>Well a two minute trailer is out on it and we’d like to give you a sneak preview.</p> <p>(SHOW TRAILER)</p> <p>You can watch the trailer and get other information about the film by going to</p> <p>www.amormonpresident.com</p>	<p>All right, let’s have a word of prayer.</p>
<p>We’ve been talking about polygamy for the past number of weeks.</p> <p>Now, staying true to form, we are going to go back to when Joseph began to dabble in polygamy and move forward by examining the “development of doctrines” which served to set Mormonism apart from classic Christianity.</p>	

These doctrines, in my opinion, find their ultimate expression in the LDS temple endowments, rites, rituals, and practices.

For this reason, we're calling this show: Preface to the Temple. Beginning next week, we're going to do a thorough examination of the LDS doctrinal underpinnings of the Temple, the temple itself, and how it serves to literally segregate Mormons today from the Body of Christ.

So let's lay some historical foundation.

Several weeks ago, before we delved in polygamy, we talked about Joseph moving "the recently established Church" from his stomping grounds in and around the burned-over district of New York to Kirtland Ohio.

And we mentioned that when the Smith's arrived in Kirtland and met the charismatic converts of the Kirtland area, Joseph had to sort of tone down a number of "unique spiritual" outbursts the practiced.

He shut these things down as a means to retain control and to save his movement from the same fate other radically charismatic sects met as a result of spiritual chaos.

Paradoxically, Joseph also sought to lead the obedient Saints into a very liberal experience with God.

I'm really excited about sharing this information tonight because it allows us to actually begin to "see" where Joseph's Mormonism begins sort of coagulate, then break off from traditional and acceptable Christian beliefs.

Now, let's be fair:

Aside from the origin fabrications, early Mormonism was really built upon a fairly (*fairly*) sound Christian base.

Yes, Joseph presented an inauthentic book to the world and yes, he maintained to have translated it in through some very questionable means.

But he was young. And he appears to have simply wanted to just present a simplified Christianity to his family and the hopped up religious community around him.

Right or wrong, I think he used his gifts and understanding of the Bible to attempt this very thing.

The Book of Mormon teaches

Jesus Christ the Savior.

Repentance.

Baptism.

Grace.

Spiritual rebirth

The Holy Ghost.

Righteous living.

And a repetitive but believable cycle of blessings and cursings.

As the Book of Mormon cut and pasted heavily from biblical themes, the early message of Mormonism resonated to a Bible believing people.

And the number of converts grew.

Taking a lead from the Bible and Book of Mormon texts, Joseph then began to emphasize "consecrated" living – meaning members should share and share alike because, as Joseph put it, "*one man should not possess that which is above another.*"

Once the foundation was set, other “more advanced” spiritual themes began to dance in the young visionaries mind.

This is nothing new to shamanistic leaders.

In time, an image of a New Jerusalem began to take shape, and visionary plans began to form for the Saints to establish Zion in a place the Lord so indicated.

At the same time, Joseph was looking for a “tremendous endowment of power and light” was to be bestowed upon the Saints – another day of Pentecost, if you will.

Being the Gospel totally restored, another day of Pentecost was a must.

In the revelation that told Joseph to move from New York to Ohio, he said God said:

“I will give you my law, and you shall be endowed with power from on high.”

Power from on high. This was a key.

Where mere Christians spent their days groveling before a God who granted them forgiveness for their sinful hearts and hands, Joseph envisioned a faith where eight year olds are supposed to have come to terms with this divine reprieve and spiritually mature adults were to spend their time as apprentices to Godhood.

While eagerly awaiting this endowment of power, Joseph and his brethren experienced several unique false alarms.

At one meeting, held in 1831, Joseph *“claimed to see God with Jesus Christ at his right hand.”*

This announcement, however, turned into a disaster when Joseph then chose to ordain

a man named Harvey Whitlock with the “high priesthood.”

When he did Whitlock’s skin is said to have turn “ black” and his fingers morphed into “claws.” Then suddenly one Leman Copley, a two hundred pound plus man, was randomly flipped up into the air where he somersaulted then landed back on the bench where he was sitting.

I’m sorry, but the imagery cracks me up.

Anyway, according to John Whitmer’s record, this false alarm moved many of the men attending the meeting straight onto the road of apostasy.

But it was also at this meeting, however, that Joseph ordained five additional men to the “high Priesthood” and brother Lyman Wight ordained eighteen others, which included his ordaining Joseph Smith.

Priesthood has long had a negative connotation to Protestant Christians. I don’t think Joseph Smith appreciated the term either in his early days as it evoked an image of men draped in robes and robbing the poor of their money and land.

But Joseph overcame these attitudes, which were undoubtedly passed onto him by his father and grandfather, by reaching back over Catholic history and into ancient Israel, resurrecting the ancient “priesthood” used by the Jews in their temple rituals and re-established it as necessary to both act in the name of God AND for believers to receive all that was needed for complete salvation.

Now at this point, a “high priesthood” had yet to fully materialize in his visionary head, but like everything else with Joseph, he was

not afraid to revise and reform anything as time moved on.

In fact, in 1831, even though men in the restored Church had been ordained to church offices including elders, teachers, and priests and were given authority accordingly, this was done without – listen to me – without any reference to them having received any sort of priesthood.

In other words, like so many other things in early Mormon history, Joseph retroactively reached back and implemented the need for a “priesthood” once it became part of his evolving theology.

This is why the story of the supposed visitations of Peter, James, and John – which the LDS missionaries teach as fact today – is nothing but a fabrication. But it’s a fabrication that tends to make the whole priesthood thing seem systematic and orderly. So, unwittingly, they humbly and softly share it with people as though it were a historical fact.

Not having yet experienced “a true endowment of power,” Joseph later tied this “high priesthood” into its appearance in the restoration, and said, in revelation, that

“the power of Godliness is manifest; and without the ordinances thereof, and the authority of the priesthood, the power of God is NOT manifest unto men in the flesh.”

In other words, this “priesthood” was going to bring about the endowment of power to the Saints.

I know this is a lot of seemingly unrelated material, but it actually culminates and gets legs with the introduction of the Temple – which is what we are working toward here.

Now, just as a refresher, the Bible is clear that only two people ever held a Melchizedek priesthood – Melchizedek and Jesus Himself, who were both manifestations of God's High Priest.

But Joseph AGAIN had the audacity to say that the high priesthood was bestowed upon *"as many as believed on His name."*

Do you see what he did?

He reached back into ancient Israel, and he reinstituted the need for high priests and a high priesthood where the BIBLE IS CLEAR THAT WE ALL HAVE A FINAL HIGH PRIEST who makes eternal and endless intercession for us before the throne of God.

And His name is Jesus.

Remember my friends, God had high priests working in His temple, who once a year on the day of atonement sacrificed an unblemished lamb, and took it's blood into the holy of Holies where God visited, and offered it up – as a covering for the sins of the people.

When Jesus came and offered Himself up, He became our final, ultimate, and permanent high priest, forever offering up His perfect shed blood and sacrifice for all those who believe on His name.

Hebrews 9:11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained *eternal redemption for us.*

There is no need for the office in any man on this earth today!

And what of the LDS High priests today?

Walk into any LDS ward on earth. What do you find? A group of aged and graying men sitting around in a group, wondering who's going to open their home for this year's progressive dinner party.

It's a stinking mockery.

Jesus is our high priest.

Anyone who calls himself a high priest today is mocking His offering.

I think Joseph had a gift for making even cow manure appear holy.

He was the greatest religious synthesizer, the greatest religion maker the world has ever seen.

But none of it belongs to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Part of a club? I guess.

Part of a religion? Whatever.

A product of a fertile and imaginative mind? Why not.

But it is NOT part of true Christianity.

Now most of Joseph's revelations up until this time served as functional directives in helping the Saints accomplish Joseph's earthly visions and to prepare them for the "eminent second coming" of the Lord.

Joseph established his Church by effectively utilizing an atmosphere of fervent millennialism.

Then, in 1832, Joseph introduced four revelations which can be found in four sections of the LDS Church's present-day Doctrine and Covenants (sections 76, 84, 88, and 93).

And here is where the fissure between Mormonism being sort of creative Christianity to being a non-Christian culture.

Because all of these new revelations were centered on the "exaltation" of Man.

Or, on Men and Women becoming God.

Now remember, in Christianity, the operative word that describes the ultimate result of the Good News is "salvation" or being saved.

But here in 1832 Joseph begins to dabble with a term which describes something more – "exaltation."

Now just think for a minute about these two words – salvation / exaltation.

Salvation / Exaltation

What is the attitude of a person who knows he or she has been saved from sin, death, and hell?

Then what is the attitude of a person who is believes they are in the process of being exalted to their own throne as a God?

At the heart of it all, these two words summarize the difference between biblical Christianity and Mormonism today.

That is, Christianity is still centered on sinners being saved from hell because God Himself came down and gave His life . . .

. . . and Mormonism, in the end, is focused

on Men and Women going up to become God's themselves.

Now Christians are very well aware that God will indeed, exalt believers in the sense of lifting them up and out of their sinful state as heirs in a mansion in His house.

But Joseph expanded this idea out to the point that faithful men and women could someday be elevated to the position of God's and Goddess's.

Where this is what makes Mormonism so "advanced and enlightened" to true believers today, Christians find the idea absolutely antithetical to the Bible's message of the state of Man and the Sovereignty of God.

LDS writer Richard Bushman states:

"Out of the exaltation revelations came a "new idea" of salvation."

Just what the men needed – a new idea of salvation. But to men out to make themselves a name, to be equal with God, to become a God, the plain old vanilla salvation offered by Jesus is never enough.

Let me conclude with one idea Joseph presented in his "exaltation" revelations.

When Joseph and his one time partner Sidney Rigdon were revising the Bible (we'll talk about this revision in a few weeks) Joseph would seek for "revelations" when he had questions pop up.

At one point he was pondering the resurrection and rewards and wrote:

"It appeared self-evident that if God rewarded every one according to the deeds done in the body, the term 'heaven' as

intended for the Saints eternal home, must include more kingdoms than one."

I guess Jesus words of "*In my Fathers house are many mansions*" just wasn't enough.

With this thought in mind, Joseph had a revelation and in it gave a description of three level of heaven (and one level of non-heaven) and the types of people who existed therein.

I had a conversation with some missionaries not too long ago and they said that Mormonism presents a fuller definition of Grace because it's doctrines allow for heaven for even unbelievers, sinners, and the lost.

Now listen to this.

The Bible teaches heaven and hell. Various mansions, yes, but heaven for those who accept Jesus and hell for those who reject Jesus.

The operative word is Jesus – not man, not works, not whether you're a sinner or not – Jesus.

But Joseph's introduction of three kingdoms automatically destroys Grace and places it upon the individuals own righteousness and merits and works.

So where Mormonism offers a heaven to all, it offers a heaven where God dwells only to the most obedient LDS who have earned it!

But Christianity offers heaven **where God dwells - to all** - based on Jesus and Jesus alone.

<p>Do you see the difference?</p> <p>And do you see the insidious nature of these supposed revelations that offer “further light and knowledge?”</p> <p>Joseph taught three kingdoms of glory and one non-kingdom called outer darkness.</p> <p>He labeled the three kingdoms the telestial, terrestrial, and celestial.</p> <p>Now the late 18th century, Swedish philosopher Emmanuel Swedenborg appealed to the New England intellectual community with his ideas about three levels of heaven too.</p> <p>His book was widely read in Joseph’s home state well before the establishment of the Church.</p> <p>Swendenborg called his kingdoms the “celestial,” the “spiritual” and the “natural” and likened them to the “sun, moon, and stars.”</p> <p>Sound familiar?</p> <p>The ideas of a restored priesthood, of an endowment of power, of three kingdoms of glory, and even of polygamy – all became foundational for the physical idea of temples.</p>	
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Temples

~ Part 1 of 3

(September 4, 2007)

For clarity's sake, let's go back – way back, to the idea of temples with God and ancient Israel.

The tabernacle was portable and very small, and consisted of three compartments – an outer court, an inner court and a Holy of Holies – or the place where God would visit.

The rites and rituals in the tabernacle are laid out explicitly in Leviticus. You can read them today. These included washing priests, offering animal and vegetable sacrifices to God in a place surrounded with very specific and symbolic furnishings and décor.

There was one tabernacle and one only, no matter how many people were in the House of Israel.

Hundreds of years later, King David wanted to build God a permanent temple, but being a man of blood (or violence) God forbade him to do this.

Before his death David had "with all his might" provided materials in great abundance for the building of the temple on the summit of Mount Moriah (1Ch 22:14; 29:4; 2Ch 3:1), which is on the east of the city.

Genesis tells us that this is the spot where Abraham had offered up Isaac (Genesis 22:1-14).

"TEMPLE" was first used in relation to a thing that was actually a tabernacle, which was called "the temple of the Lord" in 1st Samuel 1:9.

When it came to this permanent temple, there was and is only ONE for all of Israel. And it was this one that Solomon, David's son, erected in glorious splendor.

Even today, there is one and only one temple site recognized by the Jews – no matter how many Jews are on earth or where they may live.

For this reason even the orthodox Jews have gone without making the required sacrifices as detailed in Leviticus because they do not operate the temple mount.

So important is the location, that instead of relocating to another more spacious site, but in an effort to create more ground for the temple, Solomon had a huge wall of solid masonry, in some places rising more than 200 feet high, raised across the south of the hill, and a similar wall on the eastern side, just to give the area more land surface.

1st Kings tells us that Solomon's temple was put together under the direction of skilled Phoenician builders and workmen, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign or about 480 years after the Exodus (1Ki 6:1-38; 2Ch 3:1-17).

Many thousands of laborers and skilled artisans were employed in the work. The stones were of huge dimension and were gradually placed to make the massive walls.

They were so closely fitted together that no mortar was used between them.

The sacredness of the building was vitally important.

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

According to 1st Kings 6:7, no sound of hammer or axe or any tool of iron was heard as the structure rose.

In the autumn of the eleventh year of his reign, seven and a half years after it had been begun, the temple was completed in all its architectural magnificence and beauty.

So holy was the edifice that it stood for thirteen years, there on the summit of Moriah, silent and unused. This may – may – relate to the age the Jews began to see boys as men.

At the close of these thirteen years preparations for the dedication of the temple were made on a scale of the greatest magnificence.

When the ark of the covenant (which, by the way, the LDS Church does not own, have, or possess) was solemnly brought from the tent and deposited it to the place prepared for it in the temple, and the glory-cloud, the symbol of the divine presence, “filled” the house – a picture of the incarnation of Jesus.

Solomon then ascended a platform which had been erected for him, in the sight of all the people, and lifting up his hands to heaven poured out his heart to God in prayer (1Ki 8:1-66; 2Ch 6:1-42,7).

The feast of dedication, which lasted seven days, followed by the feast of tabernacles, marked a new era in the history of Israel.

On the eighth day of the feast of tabernacles, Solomon dismissed the vast assemblage of the people, who returned to their homes filled with joy and gladness.

This new permanent temple consisted of

(1) **The porch or entrance** before the temple on the east (1Ki 6:3; 2Ch 3:4; 29:7). This great court surrounded the whole temple and here the people gathered and worshipped God.

(2.) **The holy place** (q.v.), 1Ki 8:8-10,
(2) Which contained an alter for burnt-offerings, a brazen sea, and ten lavers for ceremonial washings.

(3) The oracle or **most holy place** (1Ki 6:19) which was the dwelling place of God.

There was no “endowment” done in this temple on Mount Moriah.

There were no baptisms for the dead.

There were no sealings or marriages for time and all eternity of couples or families.

There was an outer court for the masses.

There was an inner court for the priest to wash and offer animal sacrifices.

There was a Holy of Holies – furnished with a table, candles, showbread, and the ark of the covenant – where once a year the high priest would enter and offer sacrificial blood for the atonement of the people.

The only thing done in LDS temples today that has ANY similarity to the temple activities of ancient Israel is the washings and annointings – but the purpose and actual ritual of washing and anointing was *completely* different for ancient Israel than the LDS’s application of it now.

This temple erected by Solomon was many times pillaged during the course of its history, and finally it was pillaged and

destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, who burned the temple, and carried all its treasures with him to Babylon.

According to Ezra 1:7-11, however, these sacred vessels, however, were restored to the Jews when they were released from Captivity.

Once the Jewish exiles returned from Babylonian captivity the temple had suffered considerably from natural decay as well as from the assaults of hostile armies.

In an effort to gain the favor of the Jews, Herod the Great, proposed to rebuild it. This offer was accepted, and the work was begun (B.C. 18) or about 12 or 13 years before the birth of Jesus Christ.

Herod's temple was carried out at a great exercise of labor and expense, and on a grand scale of splendor.

The main part of the building was completed in ten years, but the erection of the outer courts and the embellishment of the whole continued over the entire period of our Lord's life on earth (John 2:16,19-21).

I find that interesting. To me, this building project represented a building project of Man as the real living temple of God was now on earth with us.

The temple was completed in A.D. 65.

But it was not long permitted to exist.

Within forty years after our Lord's crucifixion, his prediction of its overthrow was accomplished (Lu 19:1; 24:53). The Roman legions took the city of Jerusalem

HEROD THE GREAT

by storm, and even though Titus tried desperately to preserve the temple, his soldiers set fire to it in several places, and it was utterly destroyed (A.D. 70), and was never rebuilt.

Several remains of Herod's stately temple have by recent explorations been brought to light. It had two courts, one intended for the Israelites only, and the other, a large outer court, called "the court of the Gentiles," intended for the use of strangers of all nations.

These two courts were separated by a low wall, as Josephus states, some 4 1/2 feet high, with thirteen openings. Along the top of this dividing wall, at regular intervals, were placed pillars bearing in Greek an inscription to the effect that no stranger was, on the pain of death, to pass from the court of the Gentiles into that of the Jews.

In 1871 a stone was discovered by M. Ganneau bearing the following inscription in Greek capitals: "No stranger is to enter within the partition wall and enclosure around the sanctuary. Whoever is caught will be responsible to himself for his death, which will ensue."

There can be no doubt that the stone thus discovered was one of those originally placed on the boundary wall which separated the Jews from the Gentiles, of which Josephus speaks.

The summit of Mount Moriah, on which the temple stood, is now occupied by the Haram esh-Sherif, i.e., "the sacred enclosure."

You've probably seen it on the news or in a documentary on Islam.

<p>This enclosure covers in all a space of about 35 acres.</p> <p>About the centre of the enclosure is a raised platform, 16 feet above the surrounding space, and paved with large stone slabs, on which stands the Mohammedan mosque called Kubbet es-Sahkra i.e., the "Dome of the Rock," or the Mosque of Omar.</p> <p>This mosque covers the site of Solomon's temple.</p> <p>In the centre of the dome there is a bare, projecting rock, the highest part of Moriah, measuring 60 feet by 40 and standing 6 feet above the floor of the mosque. It is called the sahkra, i.e., "rock."</p> <p>Who has rights to Mount Moriah – Islam or the Jews?</p> <p>It is believed that this struggle for the land will someday be settled – by a very influential man who will come in and present a plan which will truly satisfy all – a plan where they will actually get to rebuild their temple on the only spot in the world worthy of it – there on Mount Moriah.</p> <p>And the man who presents and gets this plan and truce accepted?</p> <p>The Bible calls him the anti-Christ.</p> <p>Now, in the New Testament the word "temple" is used figuratively of Christ's human body (John 2:19,21).</p> <p>John 2:19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.</p> <p>20 Then said the Jews, Forty and six years</p>	<p>TEMPLE MOUNT TODAY</p>
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was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?

21 But he spake of the temple of his body.

That is an interesting comment, isn't it?

But it makes sense in that everything in the Old Testament is a type or picture of Jesus in the new, right?

So where men and women would come to a physical place to worship God and offer sacrifice in pre-Jesus years, once He came, it only makes sense that we now come and worship and meet Him in spiritual places.

1st Corinthians 3:16,17 call "believers" the temple of God.

How is this?

It's a spiritual place, NOT a physical one any longer.

You see, the reason 1st Kings 6:7 says that *"no sound of hammer or axe or any tool of iron was heard as the structure arose"* was because this pre-Jesus temple was symbolic of the final temple of God – or the spiritual place within each of us.

When we are created as new creatures in Christ, is there hammering or chopping heard? No. It's not a work of men and religion and materials.

It's spiritual – without the constructs or constructions of men.

Ancient Israel's temple was a picture with the end in mind – God will ultimately dwell in us, a house made without hands.

JESUS THE TEMPLE

2nd Corinthians 6:16 *"for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."*

2nd Corinthian 5:1 *For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house **not** made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

Just as God once dwelled in the Holy of Holy in the temple of Ancient Israel, and just as God once dwelled on earth in an undefiled temple of flesh, GOD now – by His Holy Spirit – dwells in us!

Not visiting us temporarily as He did in the Holy of Holies.

Not becoming us, as He was in the Man Jesus.

But IN us through faith and with us ALL THE TIME.

Ephesians tells us that the Church (meaning the body of believers, not a church building) is also designated "an holy temple in the Lord" (Ephesians 2:21).

Eph 2:19 *Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*

BELIEVERS THE TEMPLE OF GOD

God's temple today is also the corporate body of believers "*fitly framed together*" and "*growing into an holy temple in the Lord,*" "builded together for what???"

"an habitation of God through the spirit!"

SO we have a double whammy as believers today. We are His temple, and He resides in us, and then collectively we form a temple when united with other believers!

Holy comolie!

Finally the Book of Revelation says that "heaven" is also called a temple.

So there we have a biblical perspective of temples wherein God dwells –

- in ancient Israel's tabernacle
- in King Solomon's glorious edifice
- in Herod The Great's splendorific construction for a short time
- in the Lord's body
- in the body of individual believers
- in the corporate body of the Church today
- and ultimately in heaven.

All temples past and present were and are a place of sacrifice –

Animals were sacrificed in ancient Israel's tabernacles and in the temples built up through Herod the Great's time. Shedding blood and offering sacrifice in similitude of Jesus.

Jesus body. Shed blood through an offered sacrifice of Himself.

In the Body of individual believers! Paul wrote that brethren should "*by the mercies*

CHURCH IS ALSO A TEMPLE

of God, present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

In the collective body of the Church. What is a reason we congregate. To partake of the communion, representing the body and shed blood of God! We also offer sacrifices when gathered communally.

Really? What are they?

Time.
Worship.
Offerings.
Worship.

Heb 13:15 *By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.*

As a body of believers, the "Church" sacrifices its time, its praise, its funds to the purposes of God.

Even heaven, which is called an ultimate temple, is open only because of the sacrifice – the shed blood - of God's Son.

With this understanding of temples and their biblical place and purpose, how do "LDS temples fit into this holy thread from the beginning to the end?"

Or do they?

LIVE! From the “Mecca of Mormonism” This is Heart of the Matter!	Show 37 Temples II September 11 th 2007 And I’m your host, Shawn McCraney
Streaming Video Announcement	
In-The-House Tonight!	
Shout-Outs	
Pastor in the Pub!	
Lord’s Word	When: Where: What: Why:
The Book: “I Was A Born-Again Mormon”	
MORMANIPULATION!	Zarahemla Movie! The Inspired Version of the Bible

<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>	
<p>Two weeks ago we talked how in 1832, Joseph Smith introduced four revelations which can be found in four sections of the LDS Church's present-day Doctrine and Covenants (sections 76, 84, 88, and 93).</p> <p>We also mentioned that these revelations served to truly separate Mormonism from classic Biblical Christianity.</p> <p>Why? Their objective was centered on the exaltation of Man instead of Man's worship of the exalted God.</p> <p>From where did this all originate?</p> <p>Last week, we discussed temples from a <u>biblical</u> perspective.</p> <p>We talked about the tabernacle, Solomon's temple, Herod's Temple, the Temple of Jesus, the temple of believers, the temple of the body of believers, and heaven as being described as a temple.</p> <p>Each of these temples exist as a result of, or in opposition to, sinful man NOT to his or her exaltation.</p> <p>We also discussed that modern-day temples and the rites within have little connection to biblical connection in terms of their physicality and NO connection in terms of what happens inside them.</p> <p>So where did the LDS come up with the idea of modern day temples and this distinct purpose of exalting man?</p> <p>Let's first look at fallen Man's universal</p>	

need to not only use rites and regulations to improve upon their lot in this world, and then let's look to Freemasonry, a ritualistic example of Man seeking to order and exalt the self.

Human beings will always look to worship something.

If not God or the Devil, then something under their specific and respective domains.

Humans are hard-wired to look to support from like minded people, to congregate, and to seek principles, or people for support, inspiration, and guidance.

If it's not the true and living God, we will always find an alternative.

Children look to heroes in comic books, to sports figures, and fables.

Teens glom on to rock and movie stars.

We all have been tempted to put someone or something other than God on an altar – as a beacon, an example, an ideal to follow and possibly even worship.

Isaiah talks about the idiocy of men making god's of wood and then taking the left over shavings and scraps from the making of that god and burning them in the fire to keep us warm.

He talks about Man becoming no better than the thing it worships and adores.

In the case of the wooden idol, men

become only as exalted as the thing they are praising – in this case – a carved wooded idol!

The irony is apparent. As men worship an insensate creature they too become insensate!

If the idol cannot see with its wooden eyes, people who worship it cease to see.

If the idol cannot hear with its wooden ears, people too cease to hear.

Not only do we become only as good, and lofty, and as powerful as the thing we worship, we cannot surpass the status of the thing we worship.

Worship a goat, you will only become a goat and no higher.

Worship a man, you will become and remain a man.

Time, maturity, and some painful but eye-opening let-downs generally mold our immature views of our idols and at some point we all begin to see that our heroes have, as it were, feet of clay.

And then we have a choice – to look back and give allegiance to the ONLY source genuinely viable and worthy of worship – GOD – or remain committed to some ideal or entity or institution while somehow believing that it will succeed in being our “hope, our destiny, and even our source of exaltation.”

It has been the same with Man from the beginning.

God or the forbidden fruit.
Cain or Abel.
Creationism or evolution.
Prayer or self-affirmation.
The Beatitudes or Invictus.

You choose.

The interesting thing about the
“humanistic approach” is that it appears
so, so . . . *humanitarian*.

But in reality, without God, everything is
in reality inhuman.

Humanist claim that “*the solutions lie in the
hands of Man! We can no longer look to God!
We must exalt the self!*”

They cry:
“We can achieve what's “best” for the world!”

“We can govern. We can rise up! We can
solve crime, global warming, poverty!”

“We are the Uber-mench! We are God in
embryo!”

But we have forgotten that we caused all
these issues in the first place! And we
have not, in all our glorious wisdom,
MADE A DENT IN TRULY MAKING
THINGS “BETTER.”

The industrial revolution made luxury a
house hold name – and gave us pollution.

The Wright Brothers gave us planes and
we use them to drop bombs on each other.

With the discovery of penicillin we kill
strep and in the same century unleash

<p>Aids upon an unsuspecting world!</p> <p>For every so-called advance, we take another step back, and we find ourselves standing in the same filthy puddle of mud originating just East of Eden.</p> <p>Bottom-line: Where the faith-filled turn to God, the faithless continue to turn to themselves.</p> <p>Their own strength, their own wisdom, and organizations created in their minds.</p> <p>And one such governing organization – of the millions – is called Free Masonry.</p>	
<p>Let me share some facts about Free Masonry because in the end, they are very important to present-day Mormonism . . . and it's pulsating ideal regarding the "exaltation of Man."</p>	
<p>There is NO evidence as to the origins of Freemasonry no matter what people try to suggest.</p> <p>What we do know is the Freemasons employ "allegorical myths" to try and assign themselves an <i>ancient history</i>.</p> <p>Sound familiar?</p> <p>Some say Masonry is tied to Solomon's building the temple in ancient Israel. ALLEGORICAL MYTH.</p> <p>Some say Euclid, Pythagoras, the Rosicrucian's, Moses, the Essenes, Druids, or Gypsies started it. MYTH. MYTH.</p> <p>Many maintain that they are tied to the</p>	

remnant of the Knights Templar.
UNFOUNDED.

There are dozens and dozens of theories.

But what do we KNOW?

The earliest records we have linked to Free Masonry and their guilds dates back to around 1390.

There were men whose jobs were that of stonemasons and they were “free” – meaning they roamed about and worked where they were needed and where they desired.

And what did they do? They cut and placed and molded and centered the stones and rock for the cathedrals and churches. And they were allowed to work and travel *at will*.

They were free masons.

Now, generally speaking, the only other people at this time who were free to move about Europe were the Clergy.

So take these things into account:

- 1) These masons were some of the only free people in Europe – a status that was very desirable and envied.
- 2) They were surrounded by 14th Century religion – which must have been fairly repugnant to anyone with common sense.
- 3) The way you became one of these operative masons was to become an “apprentice of a master” who took you in his confidence and taught

<p>you the secrets of the trade.</p> <p>4) This apprenticeship almost insured a secure, creative, and liberating lifestyle for those fortunate enough to know the craft.</p> <p>All of these things led to the stone masons forming into cliques or guilds.</p> <p>Which were built upon a foundation of secrecy. All man-made seeking power, self-interest, and safety make secret covenants or promises.</p> <p>And to re-enforce the secret brotherhood, they used secret passwords and handshakes.</p> <p>This morning after 5am I was walking around temple square with a man who had just transferred to the area from another state. As we passed the East side of the Temple, above a door, there is a figure cut out in stone of two hands clasped in a unique way, illustrating the secret system used inside.</p> <p>To protect the Free Masons secrets, they implemented promises of retribution, or penalties, which a “brother” would experience if he shared his oaths with an insider.</p> <p>Now, as these things always happen, it appears from these loosely knit guilds of old that a highly organized guild took form in Scotland around 1600.</p> <p>Why Scotland? I’m not so sure, but have you ever seen Braveheart?</p> <p>I mean these people are clannish to say the</p>	
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least, and highly suspect of each other by nature. It makes some sense that the Scot's were possibly the first to take a bunch of roaming craftsmen and form them into an official lodge.

In fact, it was the Scot's who first allowed a "non-operative Mason" into their lodge, which occurred in the early 1600's.

By accepting a "non-mason or non stone cutter" into the guild indicates that the guild was becoming something other than a trade union out to protect its secrets.

It was becoming a social order, a fraternal organization out for communal power and control.

From this time forward, references to Free Masonry began popping up in personal journals and diaries.

And the guilds began to spread.

In England, the groups usually met in bars or taverns, and on June 24th 1717 (St. John the Baptist Day) two large taverns joined forces and called themselves "The Grand Lodge of England."

Five years later a manual or "Constitution" that was to be used in the lodges was printed in London. It was here that the writer, a guy named Anderson, totally fictionalized Masonic history, tying it to the Bible, the Romans, and the Greeks.

These rumors and myths continue today.

Eleven years later, in 1734, a guy named Benjamin Franklin reprinted this manual

<p>in the city of “Brotherly Love” - Philadelphia, PA.</p> <p>He was then elected Grand Master of the Masons of Pennsylvania.</p> <p>Many of the towns in early America were founded on Masonic themes and by active Free Mason’s.</p>	
<p>Now what the Mason’s did in their rites was they took an initiate – a new applicant of the lodge – and they introduce him to a series of processes that they call “degrees.”</p> <p>These degree’s represent the initiates level of “understanding and light.” In essence, they are planes or levels of glory.</p> <p>Now, in the beginning, these levels of light and understanding represented trade secrets of stone masons.</p> <p>But as non-stone masons were allowed to join, the degree’s began to represent ideals which moved all men to becoming better people, better businessmen, better fathers and members of the community.</p> <p>Toward the exaltation of Man.</p> <p>In early Free Masonry, there was only two degrees – first degree and second degree.</p> <p>And the degrees were believed to be rudimentary.</p> <p>Early first degree instructions may have been something like this:</p> <p><i>A first degree mason always cares for his tools.</i></p> <p><i>A first degree mason spends more time</i></p>	

sharpening than striking.

A first degree mason will always help another mason under a load.

Whatever (I made those up).

And as things ALWAYS go when MEN are involved, the degree's began to morph and change according to need, desires, and direction of the masses involved.

In 1725, a "Third degree - or The Master Mason's" title - began to find itself in London's lodges.

And then there started to be all kinds of splits between the Grand Lodge and England, and Scotland.

So bifurcated was European and American Masonry, that when Benjamin Franklin actually became a Master Mason in France, he returned to America only to discover that he was no longer recognized (by his own lodge) as a true Mason and was denied "Masonic Honors" at his funeral.

Now the United States was a wonderful incubator for Masonic lodges as men seeking to establish themselves among men needed a refuge of brotherly trust, a place where they shared a bond, and a unity stronger than death.

They called each other brothers.

Without a national religion, Masonic lodges became a perfect place for men to learn morals, to practice valor, and to belong to something bigger than themselves.

Unlike functional Free Masonry in the fourteenth century, American Free Masonry was *"a closed and secret fraternal organization which promoted brotherhood, unity, protection, economic support and unity among adherents."*

From Duncan's book of Free-Masonry, I am reading:

"By unifying themselves under oaths, grips, signs, tokens, words, and the threat of penalty of death, Masons became a powerful group that infiltrated early American life as they grew in number, allegiance and strength."

In a sense, the Free Mason's morphed into a sort of white mafia – powerful, united, and capable of doing great good – and evil.

It was the murder of a Mason named Morgan that caused American Masonic Lodges to nearly crumble into extinction.

By the way, Joseph Smith made Morgan's widow one of his polygamous wives.

Several years ago I purchased a copy of a book with a very long title:

Duncan's Ritual of Freemasonry or Guide to the Three Symbolic Degrees of the Ancient York Rite and To the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and The Royal Arch.

It was written in 1866 by Malcolm C. Duncan and gives the entire rites and rituals of freemasonry starting back to the early 1700's.

I spent four days reading through this book and highlighting everything with a connection to present-day Mormon Temple rites, rituals, and practices.

Now it is really important to know that Joseph Smith admitted to being a Mason in his *History of the Church*, volume 4, page 551.

This was prior to his revealing the LDS temple endowment and rituals to the Church.

With Joseph Smith speaking, under the date of March 15, 1842, it reads:

"In the evening I received the first degree in Free Masonry in the Nauvoo Lodge, assembled in my general business office."

The record for the next day reads, *"I was with the Masonic Lodge and rose to the sublime degree"* (page 552).

So Joseph became a Mason on March 15, 1842 and *"rose to the sublime degree"* the following day. (The "sublime degree" may have been a third degree Mason or Master Mason.)

Clothed in the Masonic garb of white underclothes, a robe, a sash, an apron of fig leaves and a cap, Joseph Smith was lead through the Masonic rituals over a two day period of time.

The following are some excerpts Joseph was taught in the first, second, and third degree Masonic rituals in Nauvoo.

Remember, I am quoting from this Free Mason book here written in the 1800's:	
(HOLD UP BOOK)	

FIRST DEGREE RITE PARALLELS

(Listen to some of the phrases and words Masonry authored.)

“the veil has long been lifted”	preface	<i>“the veil has been lifted”</i> - LDS verbiage
“the Compass and the Square”	7	temple /garment reference
<i>“three degrees are conferred”</i>	9	temple/heaven reference to <i>three degrees, conferred</i> is common LDS verbiage
<i>“brethren”</i>	10	common LDS verbiage
“give the wrong <i>sign</i> ”	10	signs important in Temple endowment
<i>“brother”</i>	10	LDS doctrine/culture application
“put on an apron”	10	aprons an essential part of temple endowment
<i>“three raps”</i>	10	temple worker instructions
“he opens the door and <i>inquires</i> ”	10	temple verbiage
“wishes admission”/”admit them”	11	temple verbiage

“hat, sash, yoke and apron”	12	important temple accoutrements
<i>“Brethren will be properly clothed and in order”</i>	12	temple verbiage
<i>“Brethren, put on their aprons”</i>	12	temple verbiage
“makes the sign”	14	temple instruction
<i>“to introduce, and clothe all visiting Brethren; to receive”</i>	14	temple verbiage
<i>“under no less penalty”</i>	15	temple verbiage
<i>“the Brethren present”</i>	15	temple verbiage
<i>“may see to inflict”</i>	15	temple verbiage
<i>“Masonry is a whole of which each Mason forms a part”</i>	15	temple concept
<i>“the signs”</i>	16	temple verbiage
<i>“makes the sign of”</i>	16	temple verbiage
<i>“Draw the right hand rapidly across the neck and drop the hand to the side</i>	16 (fig. 2)	earlier temple rite (1989 and before)
<i>“The left arm . . . forming a square”</i>	16 (fig. 3)	temple verbiage
<i>“drop the left arm suddenly and with spirit as soon as the two motions are accomplished”</i>	16 (fig. 4)	earlier temple (1989 and before)
<i>“Holy Bible, square and compass”</i>	16	temple references
<i>“draw the right hand (thumb) across the stomach as low as the vest then drop the hand suddenly”</i>	18 (fig. 6)	earlier temple (1989 and earlier)

<i>“Raise the hands (above the head) and drop . . . repeat three times . . . (saying) “O Lord . . . “</i>	18 (fig. 7)	temple verbiage
<i>“Down to the skirts of his garments”</i>	19 (scripture)	temple reference
<i>“Altar”</i>	19	temple tool
<i>“whispers the password . . . in the ear”</i>	20	temple instruction
<i>“all rise to their feet”</i>	20	temple directive
<i>“all may sit”</i>		
<i>by the usual sign of a Mason (raise the right hand)”</i>		LDS practice <i>“please so indicate by the raising of the right hand”</i>
<i>“those opposed, by the same sign”</i>	23	LDS verbiage (see above)
<i>“membership”</i>	23	LDS vernacular
<i>“found worthy”</i>	24	LDS verbiage, <i>“has been interviewed and found worthy”</i>
<i>“When the master makes the sign, by drawing His hand across his throat, all follow suit”</i>	27 (plate 1)	early temple directive
<i>“Do you (do this) Do you . . . ? Do you . . . ?”</i>	28	recommend interview <i>“Do you believe in Do you sustain the Do you obey the . . .</i>

		.”
“slip your <i>left shoulder</i> ”	28	temple directive
“places a <i>slipper</i> on his right foot”	28	temple directive
“three <i>distinct</i> knocks”	29	temple verbiage
“ <i>who</i> comes here?”	29	temple inference
“(responds for the candidate)”	29	temple worker instructions
“ <i>is he worthy?</i> ”	29	LDS verbiage
“ <i>Let him enter</i> ”	30	temple verbiage
“ <i>should you attempt to reveal the secrets</i> ”	30	temple verbiage
“ <i>Endue</i> him”	30	temple word (<i>Endow</i>)
“Who comes here? Mr. Parker, <i>who has</i> long been in darkness . . . <i>now seeks . . . to receive</i> ”	31	temple verbiage
“ <i>Own free will</i> ”	31	temple verbiage
“The candidate is in order, and <i>awaits</i> your further <i>will and pleasure</i> ”	32	temple similarity (<i>light and knowledge</i>)
“I, (state name) of my own free will . . . in the <i>presence of Almighty God . . . that I will always</i> hail, ever conceal, and <i>never reveal</i> ”	34	temple verbiage
“token”	35	temple reference

“the Holy Bible is the rule and guide of our faith and practice; the square, to square our actions; the compass, to <i>circumscribe</i> and keep us <i>within bounds</i> of all mankind”	36	temple verbiage
“as <i>the sun rules the day</i> and <i>the moon</i> governs <i>the night</i> ”	36	temple verbiage
“ <i>the grip</i> of an Entered Apprentice”	36 (fig. 9)	temple rites
“ <i>What is that?</i> ”	37	temple verbiage
“ <i>Has it a name?</i> ”	37	temple verbiage
“ <i>It has.</i> ”	37	temple verbiage
“ <i>Will you give it to me?</i> ”	37	temple verbiage
“ <i>by the right hand</i> ”	37	temple verbiage
“By the <i>signs and tokens</i> ”	37	temple verbiage
“ <i>We are instructed by the first sign</i> to avoid temptation by <i>proper</i> restraint of our <i>passions</i> . . .”	38	temple verbiage
“white linen apron” (sometimes a lambskin)	39	Garment parallel
“Brother, I now present you with a lambskin which is an <i>emblem</i> of innocence and a badge of a Mason . . . I trust that you shall <i>wear it</i> . . .”	39	Garment parallel

“for <i>further instruction</i> ”	40	temple verbiage
“the deacon <i>ties on his apron</i> ”	40	temple verbiage
“as <i>you are clothed</i> ”	40	temple verbiage
“we are <i>taught</i> ”	41	temple verbiage
“To learn to <i>subdue my passions</i> and improve myself in Masonry”	42	temple verbiage
“ <i>Has it a name?</i> ”	42	temple verbiage
“ <i>It has</i> ”		
“ <i>Will you give it to me?</i> ”		
“ <i>I did not receive it</i> ”		
“My trust being in God, I was <i>taken by the right hand</i> ”	44	temple verbiage
“ <i>forming a right angle</i> ”	46	temple verbiage
“ <i>A new name</i> ”	47	temple verbiage
“regulate our <i>conduct</i> ”	47	LDS purpose
“and <i>rejoicing in each other’s prosperity</i> ”	47	changed to <i>posterity</i>
“Why were you presented with a lambskin or a white linen apron?” . . . to <i>continually remind</i> of that <i>purity</i> of life and conduct which is essentially necessary to his <i>gaining admission into that celestial</i> Lodge above, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe <i>presides</i> .”	52	temple references: “ <i>continually remind</i> ” “ <i>gaining admission</i> ” “ <i>celestial</i> ” “ <i>presides</i> ”
“ <i>commit them to memory</i> ”	54	temple purpose
“ <i>deeply impressed upon the mind</i> ”	55	temple verbiage
“ <i>never deviate</i> ”	55	temple verbiage

“As you are now <i>introduced into the first principles</i> of Masonry . . .”	56	temple verbiage
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FELLOW CRAFT OR THE SECOND DEGREE MASONIC RITE
The second degree rites and rituals of freemasonry contain many of the same words and phrases as the first. These will not be repeated. Only words, phrases, directives, attitudes and activities that additionally parallel Mormonism will be listed.

SECOND DEGREE RITE PARALLELS

	<u>Page # in text</u>	<u>LDS similarity or connection</u>
“Now you slip your <i>right arm</i> through your shirtsleeve” (First Degree was left)	59	temple verbiage
“Brother _____, who has been regularly <i>initiated</i> . . .”	60	temple practice (<i>initiatory</i>)
“. . . now wishes to receive <i>more light</i> . . .”	60	temple verbiage
“the first time you were received on the points of the compass: now I will receive you on the angle of the square”	61	temple verbiage and practice
“the Master (<i>speaking in a very deep tone of voice</i>)”	62	temple audio
“Brother Senior Warden, it is the orders of the Worshipful Master that you <i>teach</i> this candidate”	63	temple order “ <i>go down and teach to the man</i> ”
“(takes candidate by the right hand) and with it the pass, token, token of the pass, grip and word”	66	temple references
“The Worshipful Master now takes the candidate by the Entered Apprentices Grip <i>and says</i> . . .	66	temple verbiage

while holding the candidate by this grip”

<i>“lifting the candidate from his knees at the altar”</i>	67	temple verbiage
<i>“with my orders that he teach him how to wear His apron as a fellow craft”</i>	69	temple verbiage
<i>“all the Lodge rise to their feet”</i>	78	temple practice
<i>“as you increase in knowledge”</i>	79	LDS theology
<i>“all the maps and charts of the celestial and terrestrial bodies”</i>	83	LDS theology and verbiage

MASTER MASON OR THE THIRD DEGREE MASONIC RITE

The third degree rites and rituals of freemasonry contain many of the same words and phrases as the first and second. These will not be repeated here. Only first time words, phrases and activities that parallel Mormonism will be listed.

THIRD DEGREE RITE PARALLELS

- Duncan’s Ritual of Freemasonry- Word, phrase, commentary or <u>action with parallels to Mormonism</u>	Page # <u>in text</u>	LDS similarity <u>or connection</u>
<i>“when it is conferred”</i>	87	LDS vernacular
<i>“three loud distinct knocks”</i>	88	temple verbiage
<i>“now wishes to receive further light”</i>	89	temple verbiage
<i>“is he worthy and well qualified?”</i>	89	LDS verbiage

“ <i>that I will not have illegal carnal intercourse</i> ”	95	temple verbiage
“ <i>than having my body severed in two</i> ”	96	earlier temple verbiage (1989)
“looking conductor <i>in the eye</i> ”	97	temple practice
“ <i>as you are clothed as a Master Mason it is necessary that you should have</i> ”	99	temple verbiage
“Moving off, one says, ‘ <i>Let us report</i> ’”	111	temple verbiage & stage direction
“Let us go and <i>report</i> ”	115	temple verbiage
“ordered to <i>observe</i> ”	115	temple verbiage
“All now, <i>form in a circle . . . the Master makes the signs of ‘distress’ of a Master Mason, which is done by raising both hands and arms above the head</i> ”	116-17	temple practice
“the <i>real</i> grip of a Master Mason”	120	temple verbiage
“gives him the grand Masonic word on the <i>five points of fellowship</i> ”	120 (fig. 18)	earlier temple (1989 and earlier)
“ordered them to <i>disguise</i> themselves and travel as before with instructions”	123	temple directive “go down . . . <i>do not reveal your identity</i> , and “
“The Beehive”	128	Utah Symbol

“All-Seeing Eye”	129	SLC temple
“orders of the priesthood”	129	LDS theology
“Let me admonish you, in the <i>most serious manner</i> . . . the Sun (sic) of righteousness shall descend and send forth His angels to collect our ransomed dead; then, <i>if we are found worthy</i> , by the benefit of his “pass” we shall gain a ready admission into that <i>celestial</i> Lodge above, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe <i>Presides</i> . . .”	131	LDS rhetoric
<i>gain ready admission</i> into that <i>Celestial</i> Lodge above”		
“ <i>Adieu!</i> A heart-warm, fond <i>adieu</i> ”	145	Book of Mormon - controversy over use
Symbol of a Sunstone	199 (Illust.)	temple – SLC

OTHER DEGREE PARALLELS

“the veils are now pushed apart to admit the candidate”	235	temple practice
“High Priest”	239	Priesthood office
“. . . but the true descendents of the twelve Tribes. It is necessary you should be very particular <i>in tracing your genealogy</i> ”	240	LDS theology & practice
“will most readily pledge <i>to do all that is required</i> of them”	267	temple verbiage

“When a candidate *receives* the First Degree he is said to be *initiated*, at the second step he is *passed*, at the third, *raised*; when he takes the Mark Degree, he is *congratulated* (*advanced*); having passed the chair, he is said to have *presided*; when he becomes a Most Excellent Master, he is *acknowledged and received*; and when a Royal Arch Mason, he is *exalted*.”

269

LDS theology
Temple verbiage

“the New Era”

281

name of an LDS
Periodical

Less than two months after having gone through these Masonic rites and rituals, on May 4, 1842, Joseph introduced the temple endowment ceremony in Nauvoo. (*History of the Church*, Vol. 5, pp. 1-2).

I'd like to ask my LDS brothers and sisters, who I love and care about, three things:

First, is that temple you place so much emphasis on from God or from the minds of men seeking to “exalt Man?”

Secondly, has going inside that temple made you feel more like a humble, mourning, poor in spirit, sinful person whose souls rests entirely on Jesus or do you enter and exit feeling more like a superior, exalted, accomplished human being?

And which characteristics does Jesus require of His sheep?

(beat)

Let's go to the phones with the little

amount of time we have left. (801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820	
CONCLUSION Pastor in the Pub Lord's Word	

<p>LIVE! From the Mecca of Mormonism – Salt Lake City, Utah . . . This is Heart of the Matter!</p>	<p>Respite IV September 18th 2007</p> <p>And I'm your host, Shawn McCraney</p>
<p>If you have friends and family that cannot watch the show on television, call them right now and have them go to our website at www.bornagainmormon.com and watch live through streaming video.</p>	
<p>In-the-House-Tonight!</p>	
<p>Shout Outs!</p>	<p>My little friend Sarah. Hi Sarah.</p> <p>The people of Sandy Ridge Community Church with Pastor Travis Mitchell.</p> <p>Paul Johnson in Arlington Texas.</p> <p>Doug and Amy – many thanks.</p> <p>Millie, our friend in Ogden – thank you for your support.</p> <p>Speaking of support, my heart felt thanks to:</p> <p>David and Nancy Leon and Barbara, and David and _____</p> <p>Your kind thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.</p> <p>I also want to thank those of you who pray for our ministry. These prayers</p>

	<p>support us like you can't believe.</p> <p>Finally, I want to thank those of you who send us articles, books, and other bits of interesting but relatively unknown pieces of information. They fill in many gaps I miss.</p> <p>Finally, a shout out to our faithful and growing group seekers and believers that meet at Lord'sword every Sunday morning at the Gateway Theaters and Sunday evenings at the University of Utah.</p> <p>We started with a "we will not conform to what people say is 'Church' today" and the Lord has blessed it greatly.</p> <p>If you are searching, are tired of church and religion, want to learn, or just sit back and contemplate what is written and said, come join us.</p> <p>One hour either Sunday Morning or One Hour Sunday Evening.</p>
<p>Hey kids, It's time for . . . MOREMANIPULATION!</p>	<p>Dave handed this clipping from a newspaper I found really interesting:</p> <p>It's a quote from the Journal of Discourses from Parley P. Pratt, early church leader, about the evils of monogamy:</p> <p>Listen:</p>

"This law of monogamy, or the monogamic system, laid the foundation of prostitution and the evils and diseases of the most revolting nature and character under which modern Christendom groans."

Awesome reasoning, there Parley. Honey, did you hear that. Now unless you want me to start bringin' home a plethora of revolting diseases, I would suggest you embrace me gittin myself another bride. What cha think?

In a local newspaper, a half-page advertisement recently ran with the headline:

Back to Temple Sale!

The ad, which ran in a advertisement paper delivered to most homes in Utah valley included a 15% off your entire purchase coupon, a listing of three convenient locations and a by line that read:

"White clothing for the entire family!"

(Beat)

I mean it's like seeing an ad in ancient Israel

Sacrificial animals for all!

Buy three turtledoves, get one free!

What the heck is going on around here? Does anyone – anyone – see past this stuff?

	Alright, let's have a word of prayer.
PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER	
<p>For those of you who have never seen <i>Heart of the Matter</i>, let me take a minute and give you a brief summary of how we came to be.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I was born and raised LDS. • Served in many positions for 40 years. • Never truly had a relationship with God – thought I did at times, but it was fleeting, uncertain, tenuous. • This situation led to desperation and despair in my heart. • I found myself on an ever-spinning wheel of striving, working, trying, failing. • One day in 1997 while driving, I listened to a preacher on the radio and asked God into my life – genuinely. • By the end of the day I was a new man – a new creature in Jesus. • But I was still a Latter-day Saint. • And I remained active LDS for four more years. • I was a Born-Again Mormon. • <i>In time</i> I wrote a book about what it means to be born-again in Jesus. • <i>In time</i> I sought to share this view with others. • <i>In time</i> I saw that present-day Mormonism fails to lead good, seeking, striving people to the same peaceful fulfilling 	(SHOW GRAPHIC OF BOOK)

<p>relationship with Jesus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>This relationship is a reality.</u> If you are LDS and you cannot say you have been born again, you are missing the reality, and living according to men, and not God.• Once my eyes and ears fully opened to the whole of Mormonism, I asked to be excommunicated in 2001 and my request was granted.• I started a small online grass roots ministry which sought to introduce Latter-day Saints to being born-again. Our ministry did not make leaving Mormonism an issue, but instead focused on the individual establishing a regenerative relationship with Jesus and to then let Jesus lead the converted person where He saw fit.• I attended the Calvary Chapel School of Ministry full time for two years to learn Christian doctrines, history, and practice.• Through circumstances which could only be orchestrated by God, I found myself being offered to do a television show here in Salt Lake City while living in Southern California with my wife and daughters and while still in school.• I accepted and began commuting to Salt Lake every week to do this live show. Within six months, my	
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<p>airline bills were picked up by Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where our website was getting 4000 unique hits per month when we started, we now receive nearly half a million a month. • We have seen hundreds of people come to the light of Jesus in different parts of the world, the majority of them then choosing to walk from the confines of Mormonism and into a Bible teaching church. • We've expanded into another half hour show of just teaching the Word verse by verse, and we started LORD'SWORD: A Christian Triage for the Religiously Dissaffected ten weeks ago, and will continue to open these para-churches around the State according to need. • All glory, growth, and goodness is of the Lord. We thank and praise Him and thank those of you who act in accordance to His divine will and ways. 	
<p>I have put off reading emails on the show for too long so tonight will be a catch up on the emails night.</p> <p>We'll call it Respite IV.</p> <p>We've got some good ones.</p>	
<p>Let's open the phones:</p>	

<p>(801) 973-8820 (801) 973- TV20</p> <p>Turn off your television sets or turn them down.</p> <p>Have a question or comment ready and refined for clarities sake.</p>	
<p>CONCLUSION</p> <p>Remember, Pastor in the Pub after the show.</p> <p>Denny's on 5th South and 250 West downtown.</p> <p>Also, we mentioned the book, I Was A Born-Again Mormon.</p> <p>Available at</p> <p>Benchmark Books Utah Lighthouse Ministries Christian Gift and Bible Christ Evangelical bookstore in Orem Calvary Chapel Salt Lake City Oasis Books in Logan Grace Gifts in Springville</p> <p>See you next week, here on Heart of the Matter.</p>	

<p>LIVE!</p> <p>From the Mecca of Mormonism . . .</p> <p>It's HEART of the MATTER!</p>	<p>Show 39 Temples III</p> <p>And I'm your host Shawn McCraney.</p>
LIVE STREAMING VIDEO	
IN-THE-HOUSE TONIGHT!	
SHOUT-OUTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark, for a great book on the Salamander nightmare. • Robert for Richardson's Monitor of Freemasonry • Laura and Jamie S! • Vaughn and Penny P. • Gladys H. • Gayle C. • Terry and Helen T. • Marilyn S. • Brian and Carol Young! <p>Great meeting you both.</p>
<p>Since we've started airing <i>Heart of the Matter</i>, a number of my daughters friends have left the protection of their homes in Southern California and ventured up here to attend school in Utah.</p> <p>In an effort to protect these innocents from the information I provide and to demonize me so that if someone should listen they will do so with a biased ear, several rumors have been started by the parents of these otherwise great LDS kids which have even caused even the most dear friends of our family to offer the girls a cold shoulder.</p> <p>I'd like to quickly address these rumors.</p> <p>Rumor Number 1</p>	

"I heard your Dad stood up at a stake conference and screamed that the Church isn't true."

This is a total fabrication. Nothing even resembling the charge is true. In fact, I have even spoke in an LDS Church as an excommunicated non-believer and was complimented on my comments by a number of stalwart LDS.

I never have, and I never will, disrupt an LDS meeting with an outburst.

Rumor Number 2

"I heard that your Dad left the Church because he had a homosexual affair."

Sorry kids, not so. Not a homosexual, not a bi or metrosexual, not a child molester. I'm just a regular old male heterosexual.

I've never had a homosexual affair. You can charge me with a lot of other things but I'm not homosexual.

Rumor Number 3

"I heard your Dad goes out to General Conference and shouts and screams and tells the LDS they are going to burn in hell."

Again, not so. Never done that, never will do that. In fact, we have always stood against these horrible tactics.

"Well if none of this is true, what is your Dad doing?" the kids ask.

My middle daughter summarized my ministry this way to one of the friends:

"My Dad cares that people experience being

<p><i>born-again. He does not believe Mormonism teaches this reality to its people. He also does not believe that Joseph Smith's doctrines represent God. But" she continued, "but he loves Mormon people. He let's me choose who I hang out with and even where I want to go to Church. He has even driven me to Mormon dances! If I was in love with a Mormon boy and wanted to marry him he would give me his blessing. He just doesn't care about religion. What he cares about is Mormon people really knowing Jesus. And many of them don't."</i></p> <p>I don't think I can add much to this.</p>	
<p>Hey! We are planning a Special Event coming up in early October . . . we're calling it . . .</p>	<p>Pastor in an Oven!</p> <p>Yes, join us for the opportunity of a lifetime to tie me up and toss me into a burning oven.</p> <p>(Kidding)</p> <p>Actually, we are going to take our "Pastor in the Pub" concept south (to what is probably the true Mecca of Mormonism) and meet for one night only right off the campus of Brigham Young University at a popular restaurant called "The Brick Oven!"</p> <p>When? Monday Night, October 8th From 6pm to 8:30 pm.</p> <p>All are invited. All are welcome! Bring a friend – even a friend from BYU.</p> <p>We'd love to see you there.</p>

	<p>That's Monday night, October 8th, at the Brick Oven Restaurant in Provo, Utah from 6 – 8:30 pm.</p> <p>Now, remember, we have our weekly Pastor in the Pub tonight at Denny's on 5th South and 250 West in downtown SLC.</p> <p>We'd love to see you there too. Last week we had about 40 people from all walks of life.</p> <p>It's great fun.</p>
<p>We've received some feedback from people who profess themselves experts in hate speech and there seems to be a consensus among these legal geniuses that I am guilty of distributing the stuff – and that I must be stopped.</p> <p>You may recall last weeks email from the "FIRST YEARA" BYU law student who said she was going to use every bit of her influence to "galvanize" the hearts of anyone within earshot against me.</p> <p>We'll these singular voice have stirred up a minor swarm of attorneys-trainees over at the J Reuben Clark nest and most of them who have contacted us seem to think that they are in possession of superior knowledge of which we are completely ignorant.</p> <p>All of their threats fall under the charge that I am guilty of some unconscionable form of "hate-speech" because Mormonism is a "religion" and as such, it is somehow protected under the unwritten laws of common decency from</p>	

being criticized.

(beat)

When **John Krakaur** published "*Under the Banner of Heaven*," a rather scathing indictment on LDS church history and culture, official Mormondom renounced him as an unreliable author because he is an atheist.

Now like it or not, atheism is a faith. It is its own religion. Therefore, according to your definitions, the LDS Church you blindly defend is guilty of the very "hate-speech" of which I am accused by you of committing!

Was it hate speech when Joseph said all the other churches are corrupt?

Was Brigham Young's comments on blacks hate speech? You attend the university that bears his name? Are you proud of the things he said?

Finally, can what I do here on the show really be defined as hate speech?

Imagine for a moment that a group pops up and call themselves *The Church of the Smoking Herb*.

This church claims a person **MUST** smoke herbage to be acceptable before God and to live with God after this life.

Now, okay. I give them that right. I have opinions about their doctrines but, hey, whatever. There are a million churches in the naked city and I can only speak to the ones I know and understand. Besides, the Church of the Smoking Herb

stays pretty much to itself.

What? The Church of the Smoking Herb now has some legs and not only teaches their strange “Gange to God,” doctrine, but they also teach publicly that their doctrines are *Christian* – and that unsuspecting people are buying into their teachings as biblically sound.

Can I not say anything publicly against this? I guess not. Because they’re a religion.

And I might hurt some ones feelings!

Then . . . then . . . then the Church of the Smoking Herb claims that they are The Only True Christian Church on the face of the earth!

That all other churches are false and cannot lead people to eternal life with God – *only* the Church of the Smoking Herb can do this! And NOBODY will get to live with God after this life unless they “smoke the gange!” And the more gange they smoke, the higher the heaven obtained!

Would it be alright to make a public criticism yet, Brother and Sister J. Reuben Clark?

Let’s forget that it’s called the Church of the Smoking Herb.

What if it was called the “Church of the You-Must-Turn-Your-Brain in with your Wallet and Your Daughters Church?”

Could we say something critical about them?

<p>Or would that be hate speech?</p> <p>According to your logic, it would all be “hate speech” because they are a religion.</p> <p>Jesus would never attack the Church of the Smoking Gange, or the Church of True Necromancy because He loves everyone, no matter how badly they have twisted Him up for resale.</p> <p>(Beat)</p> <p>Now I don’t know if there is or ever will be a Church of the Smoking Herb, but in my opinion you can be certain the admissions board at a Law School out there in the Brigham Young University believes in its doctrines.</p>	
<p>Now last week we had a nice show. Answered a lot of emails and had some excellent calls.</p>	<p>Please don’t be angry with me if I didn’t read your email on the air. We try but there is a lot of ground to cover and limited time.</p> <p>But know that I personally read every single email you send – good or bad.</p> <p>So keep them coming.</p> <p>We’ve received quite a bit of response about Daniel the BYU Baseball Player’s call, where he asked the question:</p> <p><i>Are you forgiven because you’re obedient OR are you obedient because you have</i></p>

	<p><i>been forgiven.</i></p> <p>This statement struck clearly and truly to the heart of many viewers LDS and not.</p> <p>Thanks, Daniel.</p> <p>If you are LDS and your heart and mind tell you that you are forgiven because you are obedient, you do not understand Jesus, His grace or His gospel.</p> <p>In light of what you have been taught, this is totally understandable.</p> <p>I don't blame you or castigate you for your view. But I will tell you that the view is from the mind of Man, it is founded on a false theological premise, and there is no peace to ever be found in it.</p> <p>When you arrive at the place where you genuinely want to be obedient to God's will because you recognize that you have been so graciously and unconditionally forgiven for your sins, you will then possess a regenerative knowledge of Jesus.</p> <p>Hope this helps.</p> <p>Alright . . . let's have a word of prayer</p>
PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER	
A few weeks ago we discussed the evolving doctrines of Joseph Smith	

relative to exaltation.

We spoke about several revelations that amount to what the LDS call “The Vision” and how these detail the levels of heaven that await the peoples of this earth.

Directly tied to the exaltation of Man and the levels of heaven was an evolving concept of temples that took hold of Joseph’s imagination and morphed over time into a factory whose aim was to produce a plan to save the dead and perfect living human people.

Being the religious synthesizer that he was, Joseph borrowed heavily from other “temple” ideas found in other cultures and groups.

This inspiration came from both the temple of ancient Israel, which we covered in Temples I three weeks ago, and from the Masonic temples, which we examined two weeks back.

Well tonight, let’s look at how LDS temples got started and how they’ve changed.

Now Joseph thought big. His dreams and visions of things were grand. Where other founders of faith might have focused and stressed on the minutia of matters, Joseph had a constant eye on “MAGNITUDE.”

The plates weren’t tin, they were gold.

The Lamanite nation and their battles were of an enormous proportion!

The restored Gospel was to someday take over the world!

Temples were no different.

So back around 1832, Joseph organized a group of men to train for missionary work (among other things) and he started a thing called the School of the Prophets.

I believe – my opinion – that this school of the Prophets” was a precursor to some of the things that would be stressed in the temples to come.

It was a place of instruction.

It was a place for the men to “purify themselves.”

A place where holiness was stressed.

In it, the students were challenged by revelation to:

“Sanctify yourselves, yea, purify your hearts, and cleanse your hands and your feet before me, that I may make you clean.”

They were warned, like members today are warned in the temple, to mind their

“carnal thoughts, their light-mindedness, and their lustful desires.”

Like temple today, the perfecting of man, the exaltation of Man, was the focus.

In fact, in the school of the Prophets, each day the president of the school would go to the classroom and greet each pupil with his hands raised above his head and

he would say the following:

"Art thou a brother or brethren? I salute you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, in token, or remembrance of the everlasting covenant, in which covenant I receive you to fellowship in a determination that is fixed, immoveable and unchangeable, to be your friend and brother through the grace of God, in the bonds of love."

The men would then lift their hands up and repeat the phrase or agree to it by saying "Amen."

Herein we find more fodder for the thing Joseph would eventually present as the endowment.

Where God revealed what was to be done and how things were to be done in the Old Testament regarding His temple, *and has never varied in these instructions*, Joseph's temple rituals - even today - have always been an evolving (or devolving) work in progress.

Start with this.

Add that.

Change this.

Modify that.

In a revelation given about the School of the Prophets, Joseph mentions establishing "a house of God." (D&C 88:119)

Right here every Christian who was following the Mormon movement should have referred to their Bibles and read that since Christ, God does not dwell in building made with hands, but in the hearts of believers.

But men's ideas overshadowed God's.

The LDS have also egregiously misinterpreted Malachi 3:1, which says:

Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

Forgetting that this verse is referring to the messenger John the Baptist they LDS misapply the verse and have deduced that if the Lord is going to "come to His temple" He has to have a temple to come to.

Anyway, Masons met in what they called "Temples," and it is likely that Joseph, having visited NYC prior to constructing the first temple in Kirtland, he could have viewed the newly constructed Gothic style Masonic temple and, like so many other things in his life, received some tremendous inspiration from the sight.

Other than making temples the center of Mormon life - and community - Joseph didn't have any idea how they would function or what they would ultimately be used for.

I'm not sure it was a build it and they will come sort of thing as much as it was a "I want to build it and we'll figure out what we'll use them for in the future."

In Joseph's visions of Mormon cities, the temple was always center.

Bushman notes that *"City planning, was common for utopian and religious visionaries. In many respects," he continues, "the Zion format, with its square blocks and central squares, resembled plans devised by other town founders in these years."*

If you recall, we stated last week that a number of early American towns were laid out by Masons, who, with their own temples on the brain, laid cities out based on "the Square."

(I remember being taught how evident it was that Brigham Young was of God due to his miraculous layout of Salt Lake City - with its temple at the helm and all the street laid out in N/E/S/W squares. No one ever told me this was standard fare for both religious visionaries and the Masons who came before them).

So remember, the Saints were first in Kirtland. And at the same time, there were a group of them in Jackson County Missouri, which Joseph claimed was to become Zion.

Anyway, when plans were drawn up for a temple in Kirtland, a second temple was planned for in the City of Zion, or Missouri.

Each were to be the centerpiece of the town and would appear very much the same.

Conflict led to the Mormons being kicked out of Missouri and ending the temple

plan - and Joseph's revelatory claim that it was to become Zion. But the Kirtland temple moved on full steam.

The Kirtland temple was built at a great expense. The first ritual - a washing and anointing - was done therein in 1836.

This washing and anointing was nothing like what is done in LDS temples today, but was more like a total bath, and literally was to clean the people up.

These washings and anointing tubs grew to the point where they held several naked men or women (separately). Even the SLC temple once had these large tubs for these total washings at one time.

Temples at the time also provided a foot washing ceremony and a time for the people to eat of a sacrament of bread and wine.

QUOTE from Power from On High by Gregory Prince, Signature Books, who is quoting from William Harris, writing in 1841 about his experience in the Kirtland temple.

READ QUOTE

The endowment, at this point, was seeking a spiritual confirmation of sorts, and not what the LDS know the endowment to be today.

By the way, as the Saints moved west, wine consumption - even at the sacrament table - was changed to water.

In 1916, Apostle Orson F. Whitney addressed the sacrament change by

saying:

"If we use water instead of wine in the sacrament of the Lord's supper, it is because Christ has so commanded. Divine revelation adapts itself to the circumstances and conditions of men and change upon change ensues as God's progressive work goes on to its destiny."

(From October Conference Report 1916)

The Kirtland temple still stands today. It was unique in that it related architecturally to levels of priesthood and the order of the Kingdom of God as Joseph saw it.

Kirtland fell apart because of the Church's involvement in the Kirtland Safety Society bank, which failed, and the leadership moved its headquarters to Far West Missouri.

There plans were made for a temple, but the construction never took place due to the Mormons leaving Missouri all together by 1838.

But in 1839, having found a new home in Nauvoo, Illinois, the Saints were commanded once again to build a house of the Lord. (D&C 124)

Now some time had passed here, and time and experience always gave Joseph more to draw from in creating doctrine and practice, so the Nauvoo temple was conceived and planned on a much grander scale.

Now, many buildings were referred to as temples back in the day. Offices, storage units, and even meeting houses, were

often called them temples.

The School of the Prophets ended up in the Kirtland temple. So did the Church headquarters.

But it was in Nauvoo that temples began to serve as ordinance houses for the living and the dead.

You see, in Nauvoo, on the second floor of Joseph's Red Brick Store, new rites and rituals were introduced.

They took the upper room – which was above his store below – and they decorated it with murals and white veils and carpets.

Now remember, Joseph had reconstructed a priesthood that, over time, was divided into a hierarchy.

The temple in Nauvoo was centered on the functions of these resurrected but obsolete priesthoods.

Remember that Joseph had introduced not only eternal marriage, but the eternal and godly principle of plural marriage.

The temple in Nauvoo had become the place to solemnize these Man-centered unions.

Remember that Joseph had experienced most of what the Masons had to offer him by way of exalting man.

The Temple in Nauvoo became the place to reinforce this process.

And remember Joseph – amidst his grand

and flourishing city of which he was mayor – had tasted for the first time in a long time, the POWER and prestige of politics (he ran for president at this time), the luxury of some money, and the verve of knowing many women, and having the control of many men.

Upon this foundation, upon this history, upon these purposes, Mormon temples today stand.

So, with plans to erect a new temple in Nauvoo, and some practice time in a room above his store, Joseph prepared himself to introduce the full endowment, some expanded marital rituals, and some elitist gatherings within its walls.

But in 1844, he was killed by an angry mob.

The Nauvoo temple only operated for a very short time – months, if memory serves – before the Saints left it for the west.

It was later decimated by mobs – again, if memory serves.

Out west, Brigham Young, like the masons before him, used the temple based on the City of Zion plan and located four of them in the center of specific cities in the State.

All were larger than Nauvoo.

The first to be completed was St. George. Then Logan, Manti, and finally, Salt Lake City.

Temple building stopped until around

<p>1910 when Joseph F Smith announced two more – one in Hawaii and one in Canada.</p> <p>Bruce McConkie said:</p> <p><i>Where temples are not, the Church and Kingdom of God are not.</i> (Mormon Doctrine 1979 ed. page 780-781)</p> <p>Spencer Kimball said:</p> <p><i>Only through celestial marriage can one find the straight and narrow way, the narrow path. Eternal life cannot be had in any other way.</i> (Deseret News, Nov. 1977)</p> <p>Perhaps Brigham Young said the purpose of the temples best:</p> <p><i>“Your endowment is. to receive all those ordinances in the House of the Lord, which are necessary for you, after you have departed this life, to enable you to walk back to the presence of the Father, passing the angels who stand as sentinels, being enabled to give them the key words, the signs and tokens, pertaining to the holy priesthood, and gain your eternal exaltation in spite of earth and hell.”</i> (JOD vol. 2 page. 31)</p> <p>And I always though Jesus was enough.</p> <p>Let’s go to the phone lines:</p> <p>(801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p> <p>Please turn your televisions down.</p>	
EMAILS??? YES!	
Conclusion	

<p>Pastor in the Pub at Denny's tonight.</p> <p>Pastor in the Oven at Brick Oven in Provo, Monday night October 8th from 6 to 8.</p> <p>Lordsword: For the religiously disaffected!</p>	
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<p>LIVE!</p> <p>From the Mecca of Mormonism!</p> <p>SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH</p> <p>This is Heart of the Matter . . .</p>	<p>Show 40 Temples IV</p> <p>October 2nd 2007</p> <p>And I am your host Shawn McCraney.</p>
<p>Live Streaming Video @</p> <p>www.bornagainmormon.com</p>	
<p>In-the-House Guests Tonight</p>	
<p>Shout Out's!</p>	<p>Had the privilege, honor and blessing to baptize Tom and Desiree Sunday afternoon at Christ Evangelical Church, which meets at UVSC in Orem.</p> <p>A shout out to Tom and Desiree, and to all the congregates at Christ EV. Pastor Scott, you've certainly got a great work of the Lord there in that part of the vineyard.</p> <p>Sorensen family I met out there at Christ EV.</p> <p>To Ben Anderson, wood delivery man extraordinaire.</p> <p>To Dixie – hang tough and seek the Lord. He's bring you through all of this.</p> <p>To Ken and Eileen for an excellent book and some other fantastic information.</p> <p>To my friend Greg Dixon</p>

	<p>And Annette – nice to have met you.</p> <p>Forrest N., Jack H., and all those who support this ministry – thank you and God bless.</p> <p>Finally, I want to support a film I saw the other day which was absolutely inspiring.</p> <p>It's a documentary called In the Shadow of the Moon.</p> <p>Run – don't walk – to see this excellent piece of inspiring art.</p>
PASTOR IN AN OVEN!	<p>Monday Night, October 8th at the Brick Oven Restaurant in Provo, Utah, just off BYU's campus. 6:00 to 8:30pm</p> <p>All are invited.</p> <p>Come and eat, drink, and enjoy some time fellowshiping and asking and answering questions.</p> <p>Heck, maybe some BYU students will drop in and say hello. Some J. Reuben Clark students, perhaps?</p>
MORMANIPULATION	<p>Comment:</p> <p>What does it mean to be a Christian?</p> <p>Believing in Jesus does not necessarily make a person a</p>

	<p>Christian because even the devils believe and call Him by name.</p> <p>Doing the good works of Jesus does not necessarily qualify you as a Christian because there are many people and organizations who do very good works that do not recognized Him at all.</p> <p>Even recognizing Jesus to one degree or another as from God doesn't make a person a Christian – look at Islam and a veritable host of other religions who note His greatness . . . but they cannot be considered Christian.</p> <p>What is it that legitimately defines a person or group as “Christian?”</p> <p>You want my answer:</p> <p>Following the Bible.</p> <p>Not just read the Bible, or accept the Bible as good, but whether a person or group accepts what the Bible says as truth – over everything else.</p> <p>SHOW ARTICLE</p> <p>(Respond to highlights.)</p>
<p>Hey, listen here, you <i>“inactive, aren't sure if you believe it or not, haven't been to Church in ages Mormons”</i> – we started a Church just for you!</p> <p>Of course, everyone is invited to LORDSWORD because we think we offer what churches should offer – prayer,</p>	

<p>worship, and teaching the word.</p> <p>But we specifically wanted to create a place for you to come and acclimate according to your comfortability needs.</p> <p>So get off yer assets and come on over and see if there is something you have been missing in your search for God.</p> <p>We call it LORDSWORD.</p> <p>And we meet every Sunday morning at The Gateway Theaters in downtown Salt Lake City from 9:15 to 10:15am.</p> <p>Then we meet at the U of U every Sunday evening – giving the same messages – from 7 to 8pm.</p> <p>All are welcome.</p> <p>Go to www.lordsword.org if you need more information.</p>	
PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER	
<p>“So what?” people often say to me.</p> <p>“So what if Mormons build temples and go inside them and call it part of their religion. Why should you care?”</p> <p>Tonight I hope to conclude the shows on our historical look at LDS temples.</p> <p>Tonight I hope to show why I speak out against Mormonism (NOT Mormons) and the way the Church uses temples.</p> <p>Most of the information to which I’ll refer comes from principles I’ve learned from reading <i>Eric Hoffer</i>, <i>Thomas Gilovich</i>, <i>Erich</i></p>	

Fromm, and the book *The God that Failed.*"

But I want to start off with some words that came from the mouth of God:

Listen to them carefully. He said them for a reason.

"Take heed that no man deceive you."

I don't mind if you think I am out to deceive you. Check my facts, check your mind. BUT . . . do the same with everything other men say to you as well – whether dead or alive.

I'd like you to image for a moment that there is an arena that seats five thousand and it is filled with people who are gathered there to enjoy an event – maybe it's a concert or symphony or some type of sporting competition.

Now for that brief two to three hour period, the people in the arena would in most cases be able to sit in their respective seats and get on quite nicely.

There could be an argument or two, and possibly an actual fist-fight depending on the venue, but the vast majority of the people would probably get along for that brief period of time.

Now, let's suppose that for some odd reason, a lid was put over the arena and the exits get completely sealed off. And there will be no entering or exiting the arena for ten full years.

For convenience sake, let's also assume that all nourishment, medical, and sleeping

arraignments have somehow been provided.

It wouldn't take long at all for the occupants of the arena to begin to divide up among them selves.

Some will unite as families, some based on gender, and others according to sexual attraction.

Women's and men's groups will form, children will gather and roam, and people will form tight and loose knit groups based on intellect, personality, education, vocational interests, and hobbies.

Race and culture will play a prominent role in the gatherings. This is normative and reasonable. Human beings typically gravitate toward those things with which they have most in common.

Before long, people will begin to embrace an "us verses them" mentality.

Clubs and groups and cliques will segregate the arena society.

And within time, a criminal element will in all probability appear which may very well be in rebellion to the laws and rules men and women have attempted to implement for the well being of "arena life."

All of the associations and interactions are expected and reasonable. Human beings are social animals - even when they have an anti-social nature.

Over the course of the ten years, order will strive to eliminate disorder, and chaos will occasionally seek to disrupt communal

peace.

And unless there is a pervasive element of psychosis present in the minds of the residents, the arena society will in all probability function as a microcosm of everyday life on the "outside."

By applying the arena situation to the world in which we live, it is easy to see similar human responses.

Cultures hang together.

Languages develop – unifying and separating people groups.

We congregate with those who share our goals and intellectual abilities.

We form groups and clubs, because we enjoy belonging.

It makes us feel accepted, unified, and part of something bigger and better than our individual selves.

Look around.

From the jungles to the thriving metropolises, we have the womens and mens clubs all over the earth.

Universities have Fraternal and Sororal orders – including the Skull and Bones at Yale.

Disneyland has annual pass holders and Club 67.

Scouting has their Eagles Nest, the military has their officers clubs, and golfers and tennis players the world over sequester themselves away in high priced country clubs.

The lower classes are no different.

Softball teams, bowling leagues and street gangs prove the point.

Organizationally, it's all understandable – and acceptable so long as the clubs do not restrict its participants to the point of emotional, spiritual or physical bondage.

But every now and again, someone pops up with a system that is not only Utopian in nature, but is presented as the answer to universal happiness, joy, or freedom.

Instead of becoming a choice or an outlet for socialization, their vision or system becomes a MUST, MANDATORY, and/or THE ONLY WAY.

Stalin and Castro had Communism.
Hitler had Fascism.
Pol Pot had Totalitarianism.

Sometimes a comprehensive system has merit, and actually can be applied without detriment to the liberty of human beings, like in the case of rules of International warfare or the Geneva Convention.

But more often than not, utopian ideal supplied institutionally end up stripping the freedom and liberties of human beings.

The Gauge for viability is NOT a systems merits of productivity.

The Gauge for viability is inversely related to the human bondage the system creates.

Let me say this again:

The gauge for a systems viability is not how productive it makes people.

The gauge for viability is inversely related to the human bondage the system creates.

Often, people will defend a diabolical system because it is all they have ever known. Possibly they have benefited by it in some way, maybe their family has found security in the regime, or maybe it just feels good.

In the God that Failed, testimonies are given over and over by very intelligent men and women who do nothing but praise Communism.

Some defend an evil empire because the freedom outside of it is just too overwhelming for them to face or imagine.

We have even seen respected or recognized outsiders who willingly choose to publicly praise and support evil systems out of ignorance or self-interest.

Malcom X defended and even embraced communism until he traveled outside the US and saw firsthand what it amounted to.

Jane Fonda defended North Vietnam and the United States used to underwrite the Afgani Taliban.

When evidence of human bondage becomes apparent, only a lunatic or an indifferent sadist would sit back and continue to approve or support such a

system.

I am a Christian. I understand the liberty offered through a genuine, biblically sound relationship with God through His Son.

Like a refugee of some despotic ruler, I see the spiritual bondage the system called Mormonism creates.

And I look back and see my LDS brothers and sisters in chains.

The apex (locus, apogee) of Mormon spiritual imprisonment is the temple.

What makes the Mormon temple more sinister than most other systems, is its claims that what happens inside MUST be had in order to reach heaven.

MUST.

Let me explain the temple process Mormonism uses to chain their people to the wheel.

First, there's a concerted effort to dominate people's minds concerning the temple and this effort begins at a very young age.

As young as two and three years old, babes are seeing pictures of temples in classrooms, church halls and in their homes.

And they're learning songs about their future allegiance to a physical edifice.

They sing:

*I love to see the temple
I'm going there someday
To feel the Holy Spirit
To listen and to pray.*

*For the temple is holy place.
A place of love and beauty
I'll prepare myself while I am young
This is my sacred duty.*

The power of “sacred duty” need not be explained in this day and age.

Children – even babes – are not only influenced through pictures, songs, and lessons, but insipid stories are slipped in on these unsuspecting minds, which serve, many years down the road, to stanch investigative thought and guilt people into a state of inaction:

Listen to this story as told by President Spencer W. Kimball:

(READ STORY)

By the way, I located this story in a Stake recommended resources page online for teaching CHILDREN about the temple.

Second, there's the overwhelming compulsion to “attend the temple” and to be “temple worthy” that grows more and more relentless with age and tapering off only when the person has fallen from grace or acquiesces.

This compulsive drive used by leaders and members alike is the direct result of LDS DOCTRINE.

The LDS third article of faith reads?

"We believe that all mankind may be SAVED by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel."

You have heard them call in the show – as recently as last week.

"Shawn," they say, "we are Christians and I know that Jesus is the only way I can return to live with my heavenly father."

But with a few investigative questions we quickly discover that Jesus only makes salvation "possible" for these trapped LDS souls.

They must be obedient – in fact anyone wanting to live with God must be obedient – to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.

The requirements are endless and never ending.

And here's where temples come into play: some of the required "ordinances" that people MUST complete are only available from within.

You must receive the ordinances in order to be deemed obedient.

And you must be obedient to live with God.

So to be obedient, you must enter into the temple.

And what must you do to get in?

You must be "worthy."

Worthy!

And how is worthiness determined?

By an interview.

Two separate temple recommend interviews - one with the Bishop or Bishopric member and one with a member of the Stake Presidency.

These are the questions (unless they have changed in the past year) that are currently asked to determine worthiness.

Listen closely.

READ AND DISCUSS QUESTIONS.
(THEN)



Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Does this worthiness sound restful?
Does it sound like it affords an honest relationship with God?
Does it sound liberating in love?

Jesus DIED to free every man and woman on earth from ritualistic obligation. If he hadn't, we'd still be under the Law!

The temple and the leaderships relentless push for people to get worthy to attend does nothing but reinstitute form worthiness.

And this, my friends, is bondage - of the worst spiritual kind.

Once a person has been found “worthy” to enter the temple, the Third phase of bondage comes by virtue of the CONTENTS that are presented once inside.

And while I will respect the things temple-going LDS promise not to reveal, which you have probably already heard if you listened to our show on Freemasonry, I am going to highlight some things that tighten the ropes of bondage already hung about their necks.

After the individual has been washed and anointed and receives a new name – which is never to be revealed to anyone except at a given place and time – he or she enters into the endowment room which looks like a well appointed movie theater.

Everything is clean. Everyone whispers. And almost everyone is smiling.

In this room, the initiate is typically greeted by family and/or friends, and meets with their escort. (who is usually a relative or trusted temple-going friend).

Once seated a series of recorded messages and movie scenes which depict the pre-mortal existence, creation, and the fall are played.

Before the films begin, a recording reminds everyone there that they are under strict obligations and if they are not prepared to undergo this process and accept the obligations associated with it, that they must raise their hand in order to be escorted out.

Now, first of all, you have no idea what you are about to do or agree to do, so you're really in no position to decide whether you can accept or not.

There's this awkward moment of silence where everyone is sitting there in the event someone shoots a hand up and cries:

"I can't do it! I can't do it!"

Well, this hasn't happened in all my visits and for good reason.

You've been taught your whole life that this is vital to you being accepted of God.

Your family or parents and/or friends you trust are sitting there smiling at you like "this is so beautiful" and what are you supposed to do?

So you sit there. In another stage of bondage.

Then the film begins.

In it an actor playing Satan makes an appearance. Now when I went through, he arrived in the Garden of Eden with a Protestant Minister (who was in Satan's employ) and the Protestant Minister presents *biblical concepts* to Adam.

Adam claims he can't understand these concepts at all and here God intervenes and sends true messengers who teach Adam Mormon doctrine.

Later in that ceremony, Satan alludes that popes, priests, and Protestant Ministers are in his employ, teaching the "philosophies

of men, mixed with doctrine,” and that with them, he will rule the lives of people on earth.

So, sitting in this place you have been taught to trust, this place that is supposed to reveal all the saving truths to your soul, I learned that not only was Mormonism the only truth, but that everything else was from the devil.

To top this off, the film has Satan – SATAN - presenting true biblical concepts! So by sheer association every believing Mormon walks away thinking that essential Christian doctrines are Satanic!

I am not kidding you. This is what they are taught. Can you think of anything more mind-controlling than a film that has Satan teaching biblical truths?

No wonder the LDS have such a hard time even listening to a simple biblical presentation of salvation.

Then in a cinematic coup de gra, Satan looks directly into the camera and says with super-abundant evil:

“If these people do not live up to every single thing they have been taught here in this temple this day, they will be in my power!”

You want bondage? Try seeing this scene a few times over.

So there are only a few options remaining for people wanting to follow God who have been through the temple:

Strive strive strive to live up to every single thing you have heard and been taught OR assume the letter of the law as a model for your actions, or become a religious fake.

One of these covenants is to give EVERYTHING they have now or will have in the future to building up the Mormon Church.

This is bondage, my friends. Sheer spiritual, mental, and emotional bondage.

The fourth way LDS temples imprison people I love is by the COMPULSION that is imposed upon them to remain temple worthy.

If they want to see a son off on a mission, they must meet the temple worthy requirements.

If they want to see their children married they must remain temple married.

Sabbath-day allegiances.
10 % of earnings every year.
Don't associate with unbelievers.
Etc., etc., etc.

You don't need to be disfellowshipped or excommunicated by the upper-crust Mormon community.

All you need to do is not be "temple worthy."

This is bondage.

Joseph Smith understood this, and even said in History of the Church 5:23:

"Nothing will have such influence over people as fear of being disfellowshipped by so goodly a society as this."

Fear. Guilt. Disenfranchisement.
Bondage.

I read first hand every week how this goodly society either imprisons or destroys people who are very, very deserving of love.

And if family togetherness isn't enough to keep a member worthy, then maybe the fact that each member has a responsibility to save the Dead will keep them in chains!

We've got problems and issues ad nauseum right before our eyes on this fallen earth and the LDS heap the obligation to save their dead on top of it all!

You see, a Latter-day Saint only goes through the temple once for themselves – and on this first visit they receive all those ordinances required for their salvation.

But then, when they return, they go in the name of someone who has died. So that they can accept these saving ordinances beyond the grave and get into heaven through this vicarious ordinance work.

SO living members face monthly follow-ups on whether they attended the temple or not, and are asked to participate in ward temple trips, stake temple nights, and to listen to Sunday lessons on the importance of faithful temple work.

How about I conclude with a poem,
written by a nice, well meaning LDS
woman about genealogy and temple work.

I think it summarizes the heart of the
faithful imprisoned Saint for who's
freedom we fight.

It's called Genealogy by Alice Redden

Genealogy by Alice Redden

*I dreamed my Father called me home across the
great divide.*

*I was very much bewildered. I thought surely I had
died.*

*St. Peter met me at the gate. He said, "Come follow
me.*

*There's something I must show you, something you
must see."*

*Then I saw rows of people standing in a line.
When I looked them over, they were relatives of
mine.*

*Some among the massive crowd I remembered well.
Some had lived long years before I came to earth to
dwell.*

*They were great-grandparents whom I was glad to
see.*

*But when I walked toward them, they turned away
from me.*

*Then I saw my cousins, my uncles and my aunts.
They said to me accusingly, "We didn't have a
chance*

*To do the work that must be done, to start us on our
way,*

To gain for us eternal life so here we have to stay."

*My father and my mother, too, were standing apart.
They looked so disappointed it made the tear drops
start.*

*I turned and saw my Savior. On His face there was
a frown.*

*"I died upon the cross for them and you have let
them down.*

Behold your noble ancestors, waiting for the day

When you would open up the gates to help them on their way."

My heart was very heavy as I looked these people o'er.

The blinding tears ran down my face. I turned to him once more.

"Please, blessed Savior, send me back, I'll make another try.

I'll do the work for all my kin, I'm not prepared to die.

I will not miss a single one. I'm so ashamed, dear Lord.

I'll try to do each ordinance, according to Thy word."

Then I awoke. The dream was gone. I had not passed away.

But I made resolutions to start that very day.

Baptisms, endowments, and sealings I found were not a few.

The more I searched and searched, the more I found to do.

But I will keep on hunting and searching all the while

Next time I meet my ancestors I'll meet them with a smile.

1st Timothy 1:4 Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith.

I have seen my tired, weary LDS brothers and sisters hanging on by a thread, burdened with the guilt to do, do, do.

Burdened with being perfect. Or lapping up the image of perfection they feel entitled to convey.

Aside from spiritual arrogance or spiritual burnout, the worst thing of all about LDS temples is what it does to the members actual relationship to Jesus Christ.

With all this work, He usually takes a major backseat – they have become saviors

<p>of themselves, and their families, and the dead!</p> <p>And grist for the mill of called Mormonism, who call activity faithfulness, and the mindless bondage the plan of happiness.</p> <p>Why do I fight against these edifices of false hope? Because they literally suck the life out of some very, very good people.</p> <p>May they all crumble to the dust.</p> <p>Let's go to the phones and some emails.</p> <p>(801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p>	
<p>Let's go to the phones: (801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p>	
<p>CONCLUSION</p> <p>Pastor in an Oven:</p> <p>Pastor in the Pub tonight:</p> <p>Lord's Word:</p>	

<p>LIVE! From the Mecca of Mormonism – Salt Lake City, Utah . . . This is Heart of the Matter!</p>	<p><i>Show 41 Feelings and Authority</i> <i>October 9th 2007</i></p> <p>And I’m Shawn McCraney your host.</p>
<p>STREAMING VIDEO ANNOUNCEMENT</p>	
<p>IN-THE HOUSE TONIGHT</p>	
<p>PASTOR IN THE OVEN LAST NIGHT</p> <p>SUMMARY:</p> <p>We had a fantastic evening last night in Provo at the Brick Oven restaurant right off BYU campus.</p> <p>We never know if one person or fifty will show up to these impromptu meetings and last night we filled their largest room to over capacity – most LDS or former LDS – all welcome.</p> <p>It was wonderful to meet the brave BYU students who came.</p> <p>I was wonderful to break bread (or pizza) to pray, and to read the word with people who appreciate the show for one reason or another.</p> <p>After most people left, a group hung back and had a thriving discussion with part of the staff.</p> <p>From agnostics to returned missionaries bearing testimony, they were all gracious and open to dialogue</p>	

<p>respectfully.</p> <p>I pray that support for these types of events will continue across the state.</p> <p>I love your “hearts on the matter.”</p> <p>Our next Pastor in the Pub will be on Monday Night, November 5th in Ogden Utah at the Denny’s at</p> <p>Of course, our standard Pastor in the Pub after the show will be going on tonight at the Denny’s downtown on 5th South and 150 West.</p> <p>We would LOVE to see you there.</p>	
<p>SHOUT OUTS:</p> <p>Lyndsay – <i>if you happen to be watching, thank you for taking time for others at Chili’s the other night and know this – a relationship with Jesus will put an end to the pain this world has caused you.</i></p>	<p>Lucy – excellent notes – thank you, my sister.</p> <p>Chris Childs – great seeing you and we appreciate your support.</p> <p>Ron and Marie – thank you for your thoughtfulness.</p> <p>Arleen H – Thanks for your kindness</p> <p>Terry R. – Excellent letter – gracias.</p> <p>To my personal stalker – thanks for the tapes and Kennite article.</p> <p>Becky N. – watch next week.</p> <p>And to . . .</p>
<p>I want to announce the publication of a new book by a good friend of mine, Michael Marquardt.</p> <p>It’s titled:</p>	

<p>The Four Gospels according to Joseph Smith, published by Xulon press and available at Amazon.com, target.com, and xulonpress.com.</p> <p>Michael is one of the most reliable and trustworthy researchers. He is a literal walking encyclopedia of Mormonism.</p> <p>This latest book, The Four Gospels According to Joseph Smith is summarized in this way:</p> <p>(READ EMAIL)</p>	
<p>Speaking of books, I WAS A BORN-AGAIN MORMON:</p> <p>Where it can be found:</p>	<p>(GRAPHIC)</p> <p>Utah Lighthouse Ministry Benchmark Books Christian Gift and Bible Oasis Books in Logan Calvary Chapel SLC Bookstore Christ Evangelical Bookstore Gift of Grace Christian Supply in Springville</p> <p>Online at www.bornagainmormon.com</p>
<p>LORD'S WORD</p> <p>Hey, we created a place for people who want a low key but genuine approach to God. We pray, we worship, and we teach the Word – verse by verse.</p> <p>We started twelve weeks ago and have made it through six chapters of Matthew.</p>	

<p>At this rate we will finish the Bible in just a little under ten years.</p> <p>Join us! Learn the Bible without obligation or compulsion.</p> <p>We invite all to come – and be embraced.</p> <p>Smokers, coffee drinkers, homosexuals, perfect people, sinful people – heck, we just want to gather with people who desire truth.</p> <p>We exist especially for those who have been burned by religion, who are not sure of what they even believe, or are struggling with their walk.</p> <p>Come and see.</p> <p>WHEN: Every Sunday WHERE: 9:15-10:15 Gateway 7-8 pm University of Utah</p>	<p>(GRAPHIC)</p>
<p>Over the weekend, the LDS church held their semi-annual general conference.</p> <p>(Show newspapers and articles)</p> <p>There was a major push – probably in light in the coming election – to continue to paint themselves in Christian colors.</p> <p>Next week, we are going to devote the entire show to analyzing the comments made at this conference and to present WHY WHY WHY Mormonism could never – in its present state – be considered Christian.</p>	

Get everyone you know to watch.	
PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER	
<p>Last weeks final show ignited a plethora – a veritable cornucopia - of emails.</p> <p>80% were extremely positive. 15% were somewhat negative. 5% were very, very angry.</p> <p>Here’s a few sampling of the main ideas that came from somewhat negative responses:</p> <p>Brad W. wrote:</p> <p><i>“I have watched your show and chuckled a few times now. I feel sorry for, and will pray for you. I cannot comprehend what you will face in the end. Having had an understanding of, and promises made, and then to go and lead others away?</i></p> <p><i>From last nights show . . . I will continue to teach my kids “I love to see the Temple” and will continue to display our many pictures of the temple. Is there anything wrong with setting goals for our youth . . . and wanting them to seek after virtuous things? Not only our youth, but what is wrong with a continued desire for adults to “please our Savior” by keeping His commandments, and continuing to worship in his house, the temple, not by force, but because we want to please Him. Agency.</i></p> <p><i>Good luck, I will never again watch or speak of your show again.</i></p>	

Chris called the station and left this recording with our “assistant to the assistant:”

“This dude is pretty sad. He’s only doing half-truths. His things are whacked. They are wrong. This is like some dude sitting in a basement doing a cable show

(I suppose that is a comparison to Wayne’s World – which I consider an honor).

Then Alex L. emailed us and said:

*“You know what, it is easy to find mistakes in the Mormon religion, and easy to find things that leaders have said that are wrong. **But** the Spirit that I feel from my religion is IN MISTAKEABLE. You can preach all you want but you can’t mess with that. You don’t make me nor any of my family question our religion.”*

Additionally, in the wake of the LDS General Conference, some faithful LDS felt driven to send us emails and make posts on our website that expressed “the wonderful Conference experience they have had – especially when compared to the harshness of our show.

Someone posted:

“I am so grateful we have a living prophet on earth that we can trust and follow.”

One private message quoted the LDS children’s song:

*“Follow the prophet,
Follow the prophet,*

*Follow the prophet,
Don't go astray - ay?"*

Are these defenses reliable?

Have I gone astray - ay?

Is Alex's reliance on his feelings over facts legitimate?

Are LDS authority figures in Mormonism today affecting people positively or negatively relative to knowing Jesus?

If I were under the impression that my child was a good and virtuous girl, and someone approached me and said, *"Did you know that your daughter is a street walker on weekends,"* I would in all probability get immediately defensive and pull from an assortment of knee jerk responses in an effort to dispute - and deny - these accusations.

My defenses would help me cope with the initial reaction to the news received.

"No way!"

"You are a liar!"

"I KNOW the truth about my daughter, and you don't know anything!" I might say.

I would do this because I might not believe the information given but perhaps more importantly, I might not *want* to believe the information I was given.

Over the course of this ministry we have posed this question to almost countless numbers of LDS people:

"If we could prove to you that Mormon Doctrine is counter to the Bible and it's history deceptive, would you want to know?"

The vast majority of responses have been . . . "No."

We have a good friend of the ministry named Matthew who doesn't appreciate germs.

Someone asked him, as we sat in a restaurant, if he ever wondered about the cleanliness of eating establishments.

He said, "No. I don't want to know. Because if I knew, I could never eat out publicly again."

Matthew enjoys dining out. He does not want his pleasure disrupted by facts that would certainly cause him to alter this pleasure.

We all understand this.

We don't want to know the facts, the truths, the realities, because they would alter our little lives.

Let me repeat something I have said on the show before: *"With respect to false religious convictions, facts almost always take a back seat to beliefs."*

(beat)

You know, there is a very large part of me – my person, Shawn McCraney – that embraces a "live and let live

attitude" relative to religious convictions and practices.

There are fewer things that **I**, Shawn McCraney, would enjoy more than just saying to everyone within the sound of my voice that "*it's all good.*"

To me *and my flesh* there is something quite pleasing to the notion that all roads lead to heaven and that everyone is in good standing with God no matter what their religious beliefs, doctrines and practices are.

Mormonism – it's all good.

JW's? – why not.

Fundamental Islam – good.

Atheism – good.

Hedonism – good.

Goat blood drinkers for Satan. Sure.

This is a product of Shawn McCraney au naturel.

(Beat)

But *the facts* won't allow me to make these claims or entertain this attitude.

Neither will sound reason.

Neither will the Bible. And after all these things are taken into account,
NEITHER WILL THE SPIRIT OF GOD!

So what am I to do?

Should I rely on my natural inclinations and embrace the Unitarian view because it makes it easier for me

to live in my own skin *OR* do I grow up and realize that *my self – my skin* - is a safehouse of self-centered deceptions

and I must truly seek in order to find truth and understanding?

These higher sources do not operate in a vacuum. They work in concert with one another.

Information, evidence, reason, the Word of God, and His Spirit all work interactively with each other.

Feelings, or emotionalism, is the low man on this totem pole. And reason or intellect cannot stand alone.

Five hundred or so years before Christ, Greek philosophers thought they could get to know God through *reason alone*. In time, religion became sort of like mathematics – mental activity without any moral compunction.

The result was smart people who lived inherently immoral lives (in areas like sexual expression, euthanasia, and the like).

A couple hundred years later, the Greeks pursued God by virtue of mystery religion which included moral structuring of ascetic disciples.

Slowly and surely they would lead and train a disciple and move them toward a place where they were to have a spiritual confirmation based on emotion.

When the disciple was prepared, he would be taken to this theatric event which was called a passion play. In this play the disciple would witness a god who lives, suffers, and dies a

horribly cruel death, only to overcome it all and rise to immortality.

The experience was heightened by some proven emotional motivators – powerful music, uplifting rhetoric, and amplified lighting.

As a result, the disciple “emotionally identified” with the “brutalized god,” and somehow shared in his suffering , victory, and immortality.

While the event was moving, and convincing, and impacting, the training did NOT help them know God. It did NOT change their nature, it did not change their hearts because the result was NOT KNOWING, but it was FEELING.

Adolf Hitler used modern tools of emotionalism to mold and shape the hearts of an entire nation.

His chief architect, Speers, would create these enormous and inspiring stadiums of granite and light. Flags, banners, festivals and ceremony were followed by uplifting nationalistic music and speeches from the demagogue.

Hitler himself said:

“Reason can treacherously deceive a man, but emotion is always sure and never leaves him.” (from the Twisted Cross)

Alex’s email, the one that said . . .
it is easy to find mistakes in the Mormon religion, and easy to find things that leaders have said that are wrong. But the Spirit that I feel from my religion is IN

MISTAKEABLE. You can preach all you want but you can't mess with that.

. . . is simply a defensive, emotional response to the repulsion he experiences when hearing the facts.

I do not blame him because this is what he has cut his teeth upon as a true-believing member of the LDS church.

General conference will ALWAYS provide the masses with emotional candy and the TRUTH will always cause pain.

But it is the TRUTH that actually sets you free!

Free!

Watch any LDS commercial. They are no different than any McDonald's commercial – playing almost exclusively to emotion.

Oboe music, soft lighting, the American Jesus.

Go to almost any fast and testimony meeting. Any talk that can evoke tears is generally considered as one that brought the spirit.

Emotions, tears, feelings are NOT assurances of truth, my friends. What is?

The Word, reason, facts, evidence, supported by the Holy Spirit and working interactively toward true light.

In an LDS book by James Cox titled,

Serving Others, and in a chapter aptly called, "How to Qualify for the Celestial Kingdom Today" he writes how to prepare yourself to serve.

Listen to this:

"First prepare yourself spiritually for this assignment by FEELING the love Heavenly Father has for you. Now run through your mind and heart your past mistakes, and concentrate on forgiving yourself by EXPERIENCING deep FEELINGS of love. You will observe that you have a choice. You can either recall past sins, feel bad about the sins, and then transfer these FEELINGS to yourself, or you can forgive yourself and fill the present moments with FEELINGS of love that are stronger than the EMOTIONS created by recalling past sins. When you have developed the ability to love yourself with the kind of love God has, making these FEELINGS dominant over all other FEELINGS, you will be able to recall past sins, and have no FEELINGS of bitterness."

LDS testimonies, the "I - Know defenses," the irrational "cover-your-eyes-and-ears-from-the-facts so they can't cloud my sacred notions" attitudes are all responses fostered by the personal pleasure and false securities found in manipulated LDS emotionalism.

Rudolf Hess, Hitler's first deputy, stood before a large audience of Nazi's and said:

"Do not seek Adolph Hitler with your brains, you will find him with your hearts."

The human heart will hear what it wants to hear, and see what it wants to see. It cannot be trusted – especially when it has not been changed.

Objectivity is nearly impossible when emotional issues like security, occupation, family, marriage, children, becoming a God and procreating for an eternity are weighed in the balance.

“I don’t want to hear the facts because I like my ward.

“I don’t like your show because I love my job.”

“You’re a liar, because I can’t lose my family.”

You get it?

But in the end, all the ducking and hiding and denials are self-indulgent.

You want to feel good about dining out, close your eyes and ears.

You want to feel good about your pet religion – not make waves in the family – enjoy you well lit, amplified, wonderful music conferences, have at it.

But the word of Jesus were not in vain, my brothers and sisters, when He said:

Matthew 10:34 *Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.*

35 *For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law*

against her mother in law.

36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

Let's go to the phones.

(801) 973-TV20

(801) 973-8820

And so emotions continue to rule the general LDS heart and mind.

In addition to turning over their God given mandate to "seek" to emotional convictions, Latter-day Saints are frequently guilty of relinquish their personal responsibility for discovering truth to "others" - whether it be a spouse, a Bishop, a Stake President or the Prophet.

All in the name of laziness, ease, fear, or misguided trust.

Three days ago several million people listened to, and believed, several respected LDS authorities who claimed

that Mormonism is Christian!

The vast majority will embrace this rhetoric, and never question its validity.

All regimes and power-based institutions rely on the lazy complicity of men and women.

It's the only way they can survive.

Why is it the vast majority of Christian churches world-wide dispute this claim?

Why are there people who have lived their entire lives studying Mormonism, who are not antagonistic toward the Mormon Church agree that Mormonism is not Christian?

It's your doctrines, folks.

It's your doctrines.

It's not necessarily you. I am certain there are many Mormons who are, in fact, saved Christians.

But Mormon doctrine, no matter what these leaders say, is not anywhere near the biblical message of Christ!

And yet you will accept these men because But you will check your brain in at the sound of some leaders voice and just mechanically say, "Yes."

They are not uninformed to LDS doctrines. They're experts! Why would they agree?

Every single one of us has the constant opportunity (Sartre sardonically called it the constant “*condemnation*”) to make choices.

For many, there is a natural desire to relinquish this God-given ability to choose over to another source.

We don’t like to think.

We don’t like to hear that the religion we accept is faulty.

We don’t want to know our children are reprobates or capable of great evil.

So we free ourselves from the difficult

process of thought, from the responsibility of seeking FIRST the kingdom of God because it is easier on us. And it frees us up to build our own little kingdoms here on earth, and repeat things like "I know, I just know."

It is not a mistake that leaders of the LDS Church past and present have made the comment:

"When the brethren have spoken, the thinking has been done."

Lies are always popular. Always.
Lies get the followings.
Lies pay the bills.

But the Truth - which is not and has never been of this world - is what God demands His children embrace and speak and know.

Nothing less.

And so tonight will be no different than any other night because for every ten of these whining - yes, even condemning emails - we will get one or two from a person who has come to see the light of Jesus over Mormonism, and understands first hand the difference between religious allegiances and an actual relationship with the true and

living God.

Many of the emails we receive from the LDS are similar to Alex's, who appealed to his emotions as evidence of the truth – even in light of irrefutable facts.

They “feels” the truth of Mormonism – in spite of the facts of Mormonism.

These feelings cause Alex to place belief over fact.

Herein lies one of the most remarkable strongholds Mormonism has over most of their membership – the stronghold of emotional conviction.

Feelings.
Emotionalism.
True belief.

Is objectivity possible?

Absolutely not.

So, too embarrassed to raise their hand and say something against the grain, these nineteen year old boys either check in their brains, feign true belief, set their jaw and bide their time . . . or go home in shame.

It takes HUGE guts to go home in light of everything, so most choose to stick it out one way or another.

Defenders of the faith are rewarded with accolades of being strong, valiant, and worthy. They are typically given

leadership.

But questioners and doubters are literally relegated into social – and sometimes physical – obscurity.

I've witnessed this process first hand while serving a mission in Pennsylvania Harrisburg mission.

And while I said what I truly wanted to be true and worked very hard, I witnessed first hand that those who were not verbally strong in testimony were quickly passed over as weak and those who actually posed questions were always banished in some sense of the word.

What I am saying is a fairly common event in institutional life. Why I am saying this is what is important.

You see, when people operate by emotion, they can conceivably convince themselves of anything. Often, believing it is "true" when in reality they have simply attached their belief to the emotional factors involved in the situation.

We have family, friends, parents, siblings who we love who "know the Church is true."

We have experiences that have validated our desires to know "it's true."

We have invested great amounts of time, we see a good organization around us, we find Mormon people to

<p>often be some of the nicest people around – it’s got to be true.</p> <p>“How am I going to teach this story when I don’t even believe it,” the MTC missionary says to himself. “So he convinces himself emotionally that it must be true. It must. And he called this “knowledge.”</p> <p>And he calls it a “testimony.”</p>	
Feelings – Alex	
Authority – Portrait of Authority	
Success – Few be there	

LIVE! From the Mecca of Mormonism! SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH This is Heart of the Matter	Show 42 Are They Christian And I'm Shawn McCraney, your host.
Streaming Video	
In the House	
Shout-Outs	<p>Larry H. from Layton – thanks for saying hello.</p> <p>Gary S. Thanks for your searching heart.</p> <p>All of you who send emails and don't get the lengthy response you would like – my apologies. And our thanks for writing.</p> <p>To Beverly G., Kate, and Joyce B. – thank you so much for your support.</p> <p>To Marlene over at Utah Lighthouse Ministry – thanks for your patience and say hello to Sandra.</p>
Prayer PRAYER PRAYER	
Are They Christian?	
Over the course of the show we have coined a few words – some on purpose and some by accident.	

We've given you "Twistianity."

Through pronunciation error we created the term, "Pastard."

We've even inadvertently provided you with the ever-intelligent "Musty Clam."

Tonight, we at Alatheia Ministries would like to provide you with another word. Please use it freely - and as often as needed.

Now in Astrology, they use the word "Gemini's" to describe the condition.

The Greeks used "Hypocrites."

In the animal kingdom they are known as "Chameleons."

And children understand the concept from the toy/cartoon "Transformers."

Literature is filled with characters that fit the description - *Dr. Jeckle and Mr. Hyde, Dracula, and even Spider, Super and Batman.*

In our interpersonal relationships we say a person is "duplicitous," in business we call them "Shifty" and in politics today we refer to them as "Flip Floppers."

Even the street has a name for them "confidence men and survivors."

So when it comes to shifting, changing, morphing, and adapting religious beliefs, the title would obviously be attached to Mormonism as they are the champions of changing doctrinal positions.

<p>As a result I don't think it is unfair to refer to any person or group who waffles or flip flops on their religious views as being "<i>Mormonitious</i>."</p> <p>(MORMON EH SHEOUS)</p> <p>So there is our new word:</p> <p><i>Mormonitious.</i></p> <p><i>"What? You guys no longer believe in the Bible? That's pretty Mormonitious, don't you think?"</i></p> <p><i>"What do you mean you embrace abortion now? How Mormonitious of you!"</i></p> <p>Mormonitious: <i>to change from one essential doctrinal religious imperative to another without explanation.</i></p> <p>I think it's a good word because it sounds kind of sweet and innocent – like when you describe the taste of candy or something. And that is how they morph and alter their course – sweetly, slowly . . . <i>Mormonitiously.</i></p> <p>(Beat)</p> <p>Before we discuss the recent General Conference claims that Mormonism is Christian let's review their position on Christianity in the past and what they are doing today . . . <i>Mormonistiously.</i></p>	
<p>It all started with Joseph Smith saying (in different ways and in an assortment of different accounts) that God the Father and Jesus appeared to him.</p> <p>He wrote in a final revisionist account:</p>	

<p><i>"I asked the personages that stood above me in the light, which of all the sects was right (for at this time it had never entered my heart that they were all wrong) and which I should join. I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong; and the personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were abomination in His sight; that those professors were all corrupt."</i> (PoGP JS History 1:17-19)</p> <p>Now remember, God told Joseph that all those who professed Biblical Christianity were corrupt – worldwide.</p> <p>All of them.</p> <p>Little old Bible reading Christians in the Italian Alps, devoted Christian fathers and mothers the world over, Christian martyrs, every single faithful Christian pastor , reverend and preacher throughout the entire world – corrupt.</p>	
<p>George Albert Smith, Prophet of the LDS Church said in November of 1863 (JOD Vol 12 page 333-334)</p> <p><i>"When Joseph Smith was about 14 or 15 years old, he went humbly before the Lord and inquired of him, and the Lord answered his prayer, and revealed to Joseph, by the ministration of angels, the true condition of the religious world. When the holy angel appeared, Joseph inquired as to which of all these denominations was right and which he should join, and was told they were all wrong."</i></p> <p>God Himself – well actually, George Albert Smith said it was an angel here – but anyway, Joseph was told by God</p>	

Himself that all denominations THE
WORLD OVER were wrong.

No small group meeting in a home that
were fasting and praying and living for
the Lord were right with God.

No Christian church on earth was
acceptable. All were an abomination.

AN ABOMINATION.

Early Church leaders were relentless in
the attack on the Body of Believers who
called themselves Christians – and they
have long sought to separate themselves
from people and churches that call
themselves Christian.

Go to UTLM.org and do some research.

Even as recently as June of 1998, in the
Deseret News, page 7, LDS President
Gordon B. Hinckley said that the
Mormon Church is:

*“the only true and living church upon the
face of the whole earth.”*

Later, while on a visit to Switzerland,
and in reference to those outside
Mormonism who say that the LDS do
not believe in the “traditional Christ,”
Gordon B Hinckley, when asked if he
believed in the traditional Christ said . . .

*“No, I don’t. The traditional Christ of whom
they speak is not the Christ of whom I speak.
For the Christ of whom I speak has been
revealed in this dispensation of the Fulness of
Times. He, together with His Father,
appeared to the boy Joseph Smith in the year*

<p>1820, and when Joseph left the grove that day, he knew more of the nature of God than all the learned ministers of the gospel of all the ages."</p>	
<p>Gordon B. Hinckley claims that Mormonism has <i>"a perfect knowledge of the nature of God which came through the first vision of Joseph Smith"</i> and remember, he also said that, <i>"when Joseph left the grove that day, he knew more of the nature of God than all the learned ministers of the gospel of all the ages."</i></p> <p>This brings us to an overlap of the past 10 or 15 years.</p> <p>There has been a growing and rolling movement underfoot – a public movement – led by leaders of the LDS Church and their hirelings – like Bob Millet of Brigham Young University - that demands unabashedly that Mormonism be considered "Christian."</p> <p>Why the <i>Mormonitiousness</i> on this topic? What has caused the change of focus, the public drive, the smarmy pulpit tactics?</p> <p>I'll give you my opinion on why in a minute.</p>	
<p>In the recent October 2007 General Conference of the Church Apostle Jeffrey Holland said</p> <p><i>"as we invite one and all to examine closely the marvel of it (meaning the marvelous work and a wonder of Mormonism) there is one thing we would not like anyone to wonder about – that is whether or not we are Christians."</i></p>	

He claims, in a typical move to avoid complexity, that there are basically two doctrinal issues that create the controversy over whether Mormonism can be considered Christian.

All I can say to this is *"You wish, Elder Holland."*

But Holland wishfully claims that the LDS view of "the nature of God" and the principle of "continued revelation" need to be understood properly.

Regarding the ontology or makeup of God, Holland goes on to state that the *"Trinitarian notion is never set forth in scripture because it is not true."*

He then proceeds to demean the doctrine of Three in One God and those who embrace this belief, though he states his intention is not to demean.

And then he concludes with a strong testimony of Jesus – which in and of itself was very Christian and nice to hear.

And while I would argue tooth and nail over his claims *against* ONE God and the divinity of Jesus, I applaud him for His expressions regarding Jesus in the end.

Unfortunately, he added an addendum to his "Christian" testimony. And it is an addendum that radically changes the beautiful profession of Jesus made earlier. He just had to add:

We could literally spend months taking Holland's errant claims relative to God,

Jesus, and the Bible line by line, and I believe categorically decimate them.

But perhaps the bigger question is WHY?

WHY are the LDS Brethren in this day and age strongly and overtly laying claim to being Christian, or as Religious Editor Peggy Stack Fletcher wrote in the Salt Lake Tribune in her coverage of conference:

“.”Not only is Mormonism a Christian faith, it is the truest form of Christianity, said speaker after speaker on the first day of the 177th Semiannual LDS General Conference

Why?

Have they always been Christian and the world of Christian scholars, believers, and apologists have just missed it?

Are they Christian now because they are emphasizing Him more and see the importance of Jesus?

WHY is this happening?

Two words:

MITT ROMNEY

I received an email from Claudia that I thought said it all pretty well.

She said:

(READ EMAIL HIGHLIGHTS)

You see, the Evangelicals who read the

Bible, and have heard it taught in context and with reference to biblical information and NOT Joseph information, are savvy when it comes to what is Christian and what is not.

And they speak and they speak loudly – if they have a backbone and lack an agenda.

Now I don't personally care if Mitt Romney in and of himself becomes president. Really.

I think he is a politician and I've little time for any of them. So whatever.

I will vote but I don't think it is in my hands.

But there's this multi-national, multi-billion dollar, politically-oriented-from its-onset religious group that claims to be the only true Christianity on earth that wants desperately to have one of their own in office.

It will give them legitimacy.

It will make them more powerful than they already are.

It will enable them to achieve their world-wide goals.

And they – like the candidate Romney – will say anything to get the win.

Romney won the Governorship of Massachusetts being PRO-Choice, PRO-gay rights. This is fact.

Then he flip-flopped via some miraculous conservative rebirth and now stands as a crusader for the unborn

<p>... and heterosexual unions.</p> <p>All he is doing is what he has seen the religion he embraces do:</p> <p>Flip flop.</p> <p>Mitt is Mormonitious.</p> <p>Even to the point of calling Jesus His “personal savior” - something rarely of ever heard in the halls and chapels of Mormondom.</p> <p>Maybe he personally is telling the truth. But if he’s not, there is something just wrong with using Jesus to win elections.</p> <p>(Beat)</p> <p>So what of it?</p> <p>Is Mormonism Christian?</p> <p>Is it as simple as a disagreement on whether there is a trinity and continued revelation.</p> <p>When we come back, we’re going to examine the question with a first-time on Heart of the Matter:</p> <p>With a white board teaching.</p> <p>Be back in a minute.</p> <p>(BREAK)</p> <p>On the board I am going to write five areas to consider, which I will cover superficially and are far more comprehensive and complex</p>	<p>(SET UP SET)</p>
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<p>The categories I present for your consideration are</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Areas where Mormonism is Christian. 2. Areas where Mormonism is quite different. 3. Areas where Mormonism is very strange. 4. Areas where Mormonism is NOT Christian. 	
<p>WHERE MORMONISM IS CHRISTIAN</p> <p>Stated family values</p> <p>Atonement</p> <p>Prescribed Ethics and moral teachings</p> <p>Missions</p> <p>Holiness</p>	
<p>WHERE MORMONISM IS UNUSUALLY DIFFERENT (but remains acceptable)</p> <p>Culture</p> <p>Legalisms</p> <p>Authoritarian Church Governance</p> <p>Living Prophets</p> <p>Dead Meetings and Services</p>	

<p>WHERE MORMONISM REALLY STARTS GETTING STRANGE . .</p> <p>•</p> <p>(BUT WE CAN STILL DEAL WITH IT.)</p> <p>Three degrees of Glory</p> <p>The Book of Mormon</p> <p>Gethsemane</p> <p>Pre-existence</p> <p>Eternal Marriage</p>	
<p>AREA WHERE MORMONISM IS NOT CHRISTIAN</p> <p>The ONTOLOGY OF GOD and views of MATTER</p>	<p>They say . . .</p> <p>GOD HAS A BODY</p> <p>JOSEPH SAID GOD HAS A BODY</p> <p>Jesus said in John 4:24 <i>“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”</i></p> <p><i>“Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; <u>for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.</u>”</i></p> <p><i>“God is not a man, that he should lie;</i></p>

neither the son of man, that he should repent." Numbers 23:19

Exodus 33:20 says *"no man can see me, and live."*

1st John 4:12 *"No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwells in us, and His love is perfected in us."*

John 1:18 *No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.*

Colossians 1:15 says Jesus is in the image of *the invisible God!*

1st Timothy 1:17 also calls God the Father *eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God . . .*

1st Timothy 6:16 says

Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see; to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

They say . . .

JESUS CHRIST was begotton of the Father – who had a body . . . get it?

With God having a body of flesh and bone, it is true LDS doctrine that He, the father, in this body, had sexual relationship with the Virgin Mary.

	<p>(READ QUOTES)</p> <p>THEY SAY JESUS IS NOT FULLY GOD</p> <p>(Read quotes)</p> <p>WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?</p>
THE FALL	<p>The Bible is plain on the Fall. As a result Christianity is plain on it as well.</p> <p>Mormonism says</p>
THE CROSS	
DOCTRINES OF SALVATION	<p>Christianity says . . .</p> <p>Mormonism says . . .</p>
THE TEMPLE	<p>In addition to personal worthiness and works that are required for salvation, the LDS demand temple rites and rituals for a persons salvation (meaning their eternal life)</p>

	<p>Okay. Well I said that I had five categories to share.</p> <p>What it the fifth?</p>
<p>(Write it out)</p> <p>WHERE MORMONISM IS ANTI-CHRISTIAN!</p> <p>(What?!)</p> <p>Melchizedek Priesthood claims</p> <p>Polygamy - D&C 132</p> <p>Virgin Birth</p> <p>The Abiding, Inviting, and Accomodating LOVE of Christianity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - prison story - produces bitter Atheists and destroys the lives of seeking, thinking people. - ostracizes them. - their moral high horse tea, coffee and cigarettes. <p>Is Mormonism Christian?</p>	

<p>Is Islam? Is Hinduism? Is the Bahai?</p> <p>How blurred can we get the lines before we say, "No, we can't embrace this. They're just not."</p> <p>Too many people – millions of people – have given their lives to live like Christians, to believe like Christians, to teach the Bible like Christians, and to die like Christians, for us to award the title to any group who persistently lays claim to it.</p> <p>Jesus said in Matthew 7:15</p> <p><i>"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."</i></p> <p>I know of no religion on earth, other than Mormonism, that even claims to have a living prophet that we could call false.</p> <p>Think about it.</p>	
<p>Let's go to the phones (801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p>	
<p>Emails</p>	
<p>CONCLUSION</p> <p>Pastor in the Pub Tonight! Denny's on 5th South and 125 West in Downtown</p>	

SLC.

Remember, our next monthly outing is going to be Monday Night, November 5th at the Denny's in Ogden Utah from 6 to 8:30 pm.

Plan on it all you Ogdeniters.

God bless until next week.

<p>LIVE!</p> <p>From the Mecca of Mormonism – SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH</p> <p>This . . . is . . . Heart of the Matter.</p>	<p>Show 43 Blacks and the Priesthood Part I October 23rd 2007</p> <p>And I'm Shawn McCraney your host.</p>
<p>STREAMING VIDEO ANNOUNCEMENT</p>	
<p>IN THE HOUSE TONIGHT</p>	
<p>SHOUT OUTS</p> <p>Carol from prison ministries tells me that the numbers coming to the Lord in the big house are phenomenal of late. We praise God and shout out to all those behind bars who are discovering Jesus as the Way, Truth and Life.</p>	
<p>Have a number of people who are complaining about the lag time for our posting the shows.</p> <p>One Christian, who will go unnamed wrote and said: <i>"Update your tv shows more than once a month, no excuse."</i></p> <p>Let me explain what this entails, Mr. Unnamed, my longsuffering Christian friend.</p> <p>Under our current equipment and personnel situation, each show takes about 20 hours to prep for the internet use.</p>	

<p>That's almost three hours a day every week that someone has to devote just to getting the DVD's ready for you to watch.</p> <p>Have a heart.</p> <p>Or send me a check for a couple of hundred thousand dollars and we'll buy some proper equipment AND send four or five capable volunteers who are willing to donate time to getting the job done to your satisfaction.</p> <p>Now, if for some reason I don't get that 100 large from you and the volunteers as requested, I will assume that you have grown up a bit, and realize that things are very easy to demand but not so easy to achieve.</p>	
<p>I was a Born-Again Mormon (INSERT SHOT)</p>	<p><i>Available at:</i></p> <p><i>Gift of Grace Books in Springville</i> <i>Seeds, the bookstore at Christ EV</i> <i>Christian Gift and Bible in Sandy</i> <i>Calvary Chapel bookstore in Salt Lake City</i> <i>Benchmark Books in Salt Lake City</i></p> <p>And of course at our website at www.bornagainmormon.com</p> <p>Now I personally – <i>and totally unbiasedly believe</i> – that this is one of the best books you can read if you are LDS and just want to know what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.</p>

	<p>This book IS NOT anti-Mormon. It is meant to help you understand the difference between being active in a religion and being in a true and living relationship with the LORD.</p> <p>And please, if you would like this book and cannot afford it – or just refuse to pay for it on principle alone – email us with an address and we’ll ship it out to you - on us.</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>Because the difference between religion and a relationship in your life is worth it to us. Truly.</p> <p>Give it a shot.</p>
<p>Coming up in a few short weeks we’re going to be holding our monthly gathering in Ogden Utah!</p> <p>This month’s gathering was at the Brick Oven in Provo.</p> <p>This coming month – on November 5th - the first Monday evening in November it will be at</p> <p>Dennys in Ogden 1250 Washington Blvd (which I hear they also call it 12th Street). Time: 6-8:30pm Why: Meet, greet, and talk.</p> <p>Then we will retire to The Hampton Inn a few blocks away at 2401 Washington Blvd for an open-water, public profession baptism.</p>	<p>(1/3 page “Heart Healers” graphic)</p>

<p>We invite YOU to come forward and be baptized according to your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.</p> <p>For a new beginning. For a true commitment.</p> <p>Then, on the first Monday in December, which is December 3rd, we will be coming North to Cache Valley to do the same thing!</p> <p>We're calling these monthly get togethers:</p> <p>"Heart Healers" and we'd love for you to join us.</p> <p>And of course, we also meet every Tuesday evening after the show at Denny's in downtown SLC on 5th South and 150 West if you're interested.</p> <p>Hope to see you there.</p> <p>Let's have a word of prayer.</p>	
<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>	
<p>Before we go into a two-part examination of the Blacks and the LDS priesthood, I am inclined to take two minutes and address – once again –the most idiotic support many LDS continue to use as proof of their "Christianity:"</p> <p>THE FACT THAT JESUS CHRIST IS INCLUDED IN THE NAME OF THE CHURCH ITSELF.</p> <p>Pardon me for being redundant, but I</p>	

<p>am going to resort to using an example I gave last year to illustrate the banality of this claim.</p>	<p>(PROPS) Small cup and small vial of sugar = PURE CHRISTIANITY.</p> <p>Then a glass. (teaspoon)</p> <p>Then a bucket. (teaspoon)</p> <p>Then a backyard swimming pool.</p> <p>Then the Pacific Ocean.</p> <p>Thinking that having “the name” of Jesus Christ in the title of your church proves the churches Christianity is akin to thinking that because a porn theater is called “The True Love movie theater” that it must teach and support “true love.” Or thinking that because a dog wears knitted sweaters and responds to orders that it is human.</p> <p>It’s a teaspoon of sugar in an ocean of salt.</p> <p>Come on, you guys. You’ve got to think a little deeper than this, don’t cha think?</p> <p>I mean the name of the LDS Church fits perfectly into the reason for its establishment:</p> <p>Back then, people were looking for the true church of Jesus to be brought back to earth. They were called “restorationists.” Alexander Campell lead the pack!</p> <p>For a church to truly be considered the restored Church of Jesus it HAD to bear</p>
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	<p>His name! And that was required by people well before Joseph Smith ever took off his hat.</p> <p>Listen, prove your Christianity by accepting Christian principles - exaltation by grace, His death on the cross, the virgin birth, the imputation of His righteousness - and leave the candy comments where they belong.</p> <p>All right . . .</p>
<p>Last week I introduced a new word to our viewing audience:</p> <p>"Mormonishious" and defined it as</p> <p><i>"the changing from one doctrinal religious imperative to another without explanation."</i></p> <p>Well, we're still plodding along through the highlights of LDS Church History and before we move onto Nauvoo, the council of fifty, the Danites, and a host of other things - including the death of Joseph Smith - we must touch on a very peculiar piece of Mormon history - it's theological treatment of African Americans, or what is commonly known as "the blacks and the priesthood" issue.</p> <p>It just so happens that this example of "Mormonishiousness" has been a good thing - if you think that allowing people to embrace a non-existent priesthood and enter a temple a good thing - but wouldn't it have been nice if they never had to change their stance regarding African American</p>	

<p>people in first place?</p> <p>What is the essence of racism?</p> <p>What is the thinking when one group of people refuse to let another group or groups of people – because of their national heritage - participate in an any sort of activity?</p> <p>Ask yourself this question:</p> <p>Where does this come from? Is it from God or is it from some other source?</p> <p>Now the LDS have long used God’s dealings with ancient Israel to “prove” that even God has been exclusionary when it comes to His priesthood.</p> <p>Listen carefully.</p> <p>There is a big difference between God saying ONLY a specific small line of men can perform priesthood duties, and God saying “Everyone can perform these duties except black people!”</p> <p>Do you get the difference?</p> <p>Where did it all come from?</p> <p>What was the attitude of the early Saints?</p> <p>Has this doctrine, though renounced in 1978, affected the LDS heart toward blacks and are those affects still felt today?</p>	
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<p>We REALLY want your calls on this tonight and we would prefer that you are LDS or have been LDS and have an opinion on the issue.</p> <p>Don't be afraid – but please be honest.</p>	
<p>Let's go to the phones.</p> <p>And listen, a few reminders:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Have a question or comment ready. 2) Turn your television sets DOWN! 3) We want people to call who have not called before. We invite the LDS to call NOT TO ARGUE but to ask questions – I'll answer to the best of my limited ability. <p>For example, ask why Christians believe this or that, how this or that is different from Mormonism and/or why it is different.</p> <p>Let yourself ask questions.</p> <p>Let yourself wonder for a while.</p> <p>ALL RIGHT???</p> <p>(801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p>	
CONCLUSION	

<p>TONIGHT!</p> <p>Pastor in the Pub at Denny's on 5th South and 125 West.</p> <p>All are welcome.</p>	
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<p>LIVE! From the “Mecca of Mormonism” . . . SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH This is Heart of the Matter</p>	<p>Show 44 Racism II October 30th 2007</p> <p>And I’m your host, Shawn McCraney</p>
<p>LIVE STREAMING VIDEO</p>	
<p>There is no “IN-THE-HOUSE TONIGHT . . . because actually, for the first time in the History of HOTM, we’re not live.</p> <p>Due to a series of rescheduling issues with California school activities, I learned last night that my middle daughter Cassidy needs me tonight to escort her at a senior recognition event.</p> <p>So you are watching a taped show – which means we will not be taking any calls tonight.</p> <p>My apologies, but Cassidy needs her Dad tonight.</p>	
<p>SHOUT OUTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To Gayle and the “Almost 80 Ladies.” • Ivan and Verleen H. • Yvonne S. • Kathryn – trust in Him, my sister. Our prayers are with you. • Consuelo – stay strong, young lady. 	
<p>Now don’t foget - this coming Monday Night! We’re coming to you, Ogden, Utah!</p>	

<p>Dennys in Ogden 1250 Washington Blvd (which I hear they also call it 12th Street). Time: 6-8:30pm Why: Meet, greet, and talk with a brief message.</p> <p>Then remember, we will then retire to The Hampton Inn a few blocks away at 2401 Washington Blvd for an open-water, public profession baptism.</p> <p>We invite YOU to come forward and be baptized according to your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Bring a towel, and a change of clothes.</p> <p>We look forward to meeting all of you.</p> <p>Again, Monday Night, November 5th at Denny's in Ogden followed by an open baptism at the Hampton Inn a few blocks away.</p> <p>Come and start life anew in Jesus.</p> <p>NOW . . . we are NOT meeting tonight at the Denny's on 5th South because I am right now, as you're watching me, in Southern California with my daughter.</p> <p>So if you show up tonight, I will not be in attendance but there may be others who keep the fires burning.</p>	
<p>Many people feel there that the LDS Church is upfront and clear in all the things they say and do.</p>	

Not too long ago, Gordon B. Hinckley made an official statement about polygamy.

Ready? He said:

“I wish to state categorically that this Church has nothing whatsoever to do with those practicing polygamy.”

That’s pretty emphatic, isn’t it?

Categorically state . . . this church has **NOTHING** *whatsoever* to do with those practicing polygamy.

On October 26th 2007, the Deseret Morning News ran an article titled,

Tributes abound for Sister Hunter.

It was the coverage of the passing and funeral of LDS Prophet, Seer, and Revelator, Howard W. Hunter’s second wife, Inis.

It seems Inis lived a very nice life and was loved by all. She was sealed to Howard W. Hunter after the prophet’s first wife, Claire Jeffs, died of Alzheimers disease.

Many LDS leaders came to this funeral where even President Gordon B Hinckley spoke.

The Deseret News reported that President Hinckley

“ . . . affirmed the eternal nature of the marriage between Sister Hunter (Inis) and the former church president.”

<p>So on the one hand, Hinckley <i>"categorically states that the LDS Church has nothing whatsoever to do with those practicing polygamy"</i> and on the other hand he affirms as recently as last week <i>"the eternal nature of the marriage between Howard W. Hunters and his SECOND wife!"</i></p> <p>Understand this – I don't care if they want to practice polygamy. But I do care when they make public pronouncements which claim they have nothing to do with it, and then privately assure the membership that they do.</p>	
<p>Speaking of polygamy, many of you will remember me mentioning meeting a Centinnial Park polygamist at one of our pastors in the pub.</p> <p>His name was Ben.</p> <p>In fact, when we had a show on plural marriage, Ben called in. Here is a clip of our conversation:</p> <p>I learned last night that Ben was tragically killed in a small plane crash last Friday night.</p> <p>Our hearts go out to his large, young family.</p>	
<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>	
<p>Last week we introduced the topic of racist doctrines that were once in the LDS church.</p> <p>Our tech genius Micah came to Pastor in</p>	

<p>the Pub last week and asked a few questions about it. Let's watch. (RUN DVD)</p>	<p>(RUN DVD)</p>
<p>Now I mentioned last week that racism began in Mormonism and can be traced in the text of the Book of Mormon.</p> <p>As Joseph progressed in his theological conjecturing, the idea of a pre-existence took a more prominent role and was incorporated into his so-called translation of the Book of Abraham.</p> <p>We'll speak of this in a moment.</p> <p>But let's talk about racism in the Book of Mormon for a minute first.</p>	
<p>There are several "catch word comparatives" that are used in the Book of Mormon, that when viewed from outside the confines of biased LDS presentations, cannot be considered anything but racist and highly disturbing.</p> <p>Speaking positively, Joseph described people in terms of as:</p> <p>"White and delightsome" "fair and beautiful" or "fair and white"</p> <p>As a sharp contrast, he also used</p> <p>"dark and loathsome" to describe people groups who had become corrupted or chose to live evil lives.</p> <p>In describing the gentiles that would some day discover America, Joseph had Nephi say</p> <p>"I beheld that they were white and</p>	

exceedingly fair like unto my people before they were slain."

Several chapters later, he describes how the "Lamanites" – who the LDS claim were the beginning of "some" of the American Indian peoples – became Lamanites.

Listen:

"And he (meaning God) had a curse come upon them, yea, even a sore cursing, because of their iniquity. For behold, they had hardened their hearts against him, that they had become like unto flint; wherefore as they were white, and exceedingly fair and delightsome, that they might not be enticing unto my people the Lord God did cause a skin of blackness to come upon them."

Obviously, the writer of the book of Nephi, whether it was Joseph Smith or an ancient American named Nephi, believed that dark skin was repulsive and white skin was delightsome.

Reinforcing this opinion was the fact that later in the Book of Mormon, when the dark Lamanites converted to Christianity, something miraculous occurred!

Their skin pigmentation began to change!

3rd Nephi 2:14-15 reads:

"and their curse was taken from them, and their skin became white like unto the Nephites, and their young men and their daughters became exceedingly fair, and they were numbered among the Nephites and were called Nephites."

Sadly, according to the Book of Mormon, as the Lamanites returned to their evil ways, their skin grew dark again.

Nephite prophets are constantly portrayed as looking for the day when their dark-skinned Lamanite brothers and sisters would become “*white and delightsome*” as they embrace the true gospel preached to them.

As an interesting side note, in the 1960’s and 70’s, there was a push in the LDS church to adopt or bring native American Indians into LDS homes to help assimilate these poor American Indians into a less “Lamanite” way of living.

Many LDS couples who “followed the Prophet” on this recommendation reported that they could actually see the skin pigmentation of their Lamanite house guests getting lighter as they became more active in the gospel.

Later in the Book of Mormon, a prophet named Jacob, in a rebuke of his people, says:

“O my brethren, I fear that unless ye shall repent of your sins that their skins will be whiter than yours, when ye shall be brought with them before the throne of God.”

I mean, does this make any sense?

Can’t you hear the immaturity coming out of the writer Joseph in this stuff?

While these statements are certainly racist, they also seem to extol some sort of “pigmentary ideology” that says skin

color changes according to the level of sin or obedience in the lives of the individual being considered.

Pure fiction.

I mean, what kind of God makes changes to the skin pigmentation of people – back and forth, from white and pure to dark and loathing – based on their attitudes, actions, and ideals – the Willy Wonka God?

This is just absurd.

Isn't it interesting that Joseph Smith's Book of Mormon God changed the skin of ALL of the Lamanite people to dark and loathsome – babies, children, teens, too – but didn't change any of the Nephites skin color even when they became evil and corrupted?

How come God hasn't used this pigmentology effect on all peoples the world over?

How come Nazi Germans remained white and delightful?

Why did the the Bolshivecks stay white?

The Manson Family?

Because Joseph's racial explanations in the Book of Mormon were only as advanced as the back wooded ideals of his day.

America was settled and suddenly they discovered all these savage looking red skinned people roaming about who were different than themselves.

Obviously, there has to be a REASON for these terrifying differences.

And when answers were being sought by seeking people in and around 1830, Joseph was willing to provide them – even where God didn't.

I'm not certain what the percentages of the world are relative to skin color, but I would guess that at least 80% of the world is not "white and delightful."

What does this say about Joseph's racial implications found in the Book of Mormon?

It speaks two words: Fanciful Fiction.

In 1835, after a series of very discouraging series of events caused many of the Saints to begin to doubt Joseph's revelatory abilities, the thirty-year old prophet announced the discovery of another miraculous find which ended up being more Words from God – the Book of Abraham.

We covered the book of Abraham in our shows titled The Pearl of Great Price parts I and II earlier in the year, but in summary, a man named Michael Chandler showed up in Kirtland, Ohio with some Egyptian mummies and long story short, after examining them with his untrained but highly speculative "spiritual sensitivities," Joseph proclaimed them to be the words of God through the prophet Abraham.

This new and miraculous revelation created new and miraculous faith in the

Saint's hearts in Kirtland, as there was no way to confirm or renounce Joseph's claims at the time.

In the Book of Abraham, Joseph claimed to decipher some very advance revelations regarding matter and introduced more information on what Latter-day Saints called the pre-existence or pre-mortal life.

As a side note, there is some substantial evidence that Joseph plagiarized his ideas on matter being eternal and uncreated and a pre-existence from reading Thomas Dick's *Philosophy of a Future State*, from which even Sidney Rigdon quoted directly from in an article in the LDS Messenger and Advocate of November 1836.

But this would be yet another show.

However, one of Thomas Dick's unusual ideas was that "various orders of intelligences" populated the stars and were in different phases of evolution towards perfection.

Sound familiar?

Joseph used this idea of a pre-existence to flesh out an entire system of progressive theology. Included in this was more answers on race - except this time, they were answers regarding blacks people.

The theological presentations amidst an almost laughable translation of the Book of Abraham are quite interesting, but we will merely mention the one that helped Mormonism take a stand against blacks.

Here is where it originated:

When these words combined with the teaching of a pre-existent state, a new and very racist doctrine sprouted legs.

It was the doctrine that black people could not hold the priesthood.

What this meant was that while blacks could be baptized and become members of the Mormon Church, they were not permitted to enter into LDS temples because only those who held the priesthood could enter into the temple.

And if a person cannot enter the temple, such a person cannot go to the celestial kingdom – or the place where Latter-day Saints say God the Father lives.

Therefore, by banning blacks from their priesthood, Mormons were essentially banning blacks from heaven too.

There seems to be a sort of theological chronology or procession to this whole blacks not having the priesthood.

Let me try and lay it out here.

First, there is the belief in a “pre-existence” which Joseph taught which says that each of us who are on earth lived before with God as His spirit Children.

Our spirits were formed by God out of these “intelligences” which have always existed.

The Book of Abraham teaches that there

were some spirits in the pre-existence or pre-mortal life that were “noble” or more noble than others and that these noble spirits were to be the rulers here on earth.

A natural outflow of this teaching was the idea that if there were valiant or “noble” spirits in the pre-existence – who became our spiritual rulers, there must have been lower or darker or “less valiant spirits” there too.

And guess who they became here on earth.

That’s right – the black folk.

Now, The book of Abraham, as I read, teaches us of the lineage of the blacks and teaches us that they could not hold the priesthood.

This lineage began when Cain killed his brother Abel and God put a curse upon him.

Nowhere does the Bible teach that this “mark” was black skin. But it was a common racist belief back then that this is what the mark meant.

So, through Cain the black skin started, and Ham, one of Noah’s more mischievous sons married a girl named Egyptus who was black.

So finally, through Ham and Egyptus all the black race came forth into the earth.

So, what we have here is the idea that blacks were inferior intelligences in the pre-existence (because they were not valiant in choosing God’s plan) and as a

result, they are born through the line of Cain, which continues on through Ham, whose wife was under the curse.

Like almost everything else in Joseph's life, the blacks and the priesthood thing was both a matter of progressively changing theology AND it morphed according to social pressures.

Whatever was necessary to keep Mormonism growing, Joseph used it, whether it be sexist, racist, or a fabrication in the name of God.

It is known that Joseph even gave at least one black man, named Elijah Abel, the priesthood.

But this practice became short lived.

And again, like many other seeds Joseph merely planted – like multiple Gods, becoming a God, the non-divinity of Jesus, the fallibility of the Bible, plural marriage, blood atonement, continued revelation – blacks being banned from the priesthood really sprouted wings under the direction of later LDS leaders . . . and took an ugly grip on the hearts of many Latter-day Saints even today.

What are some of the attitudes and comments LDS leaders of the not too distant past have whispered into our ears?

Regarding the Pre-existence:

<p>Regarding Cain:</p>	
<p>Regarding the Priesthood:</p>	

<p>Regarding Inter-racial Marriage:</p>	
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Regarding LDS view of the value of Black people:

There are a lot of clues to what lead to the LDS Church rescinding the ban of the priesthood from blacks in 1978.

From everything I've read, it was primarily based on the fact that a temple was being built in Brazil which was essentially funded by the Brazilian people and it was impossible to tell who had a drop or more of black blood in them and who did not.

Of course there were other factors which

led to the announcement too. How much of the factor they played will may never be known.

But we do have an interesting exchange of letters that lend more heavily as to why than anything else.

(Read Letters)

So what of it?

Maybe the whole Priesthood thing was just an error, or it was an event tied to the general attitude toward blacks during that day.

The LDS Church changed on it, right? Why are you continuing to harass them over the past?

Two reasons:

First, I was brought up under the "blacks are an inferior race" mode and that stuff does not easily leave the heart.

Mormonism - which claims to produce such wonderful fruit for the world - has done a horrific act by purposefully making millions of people bigoted ignoramus's through the teachings of its insipid doctrines.

Secondly, what's next? We trusted them in giving us our attitudes and answers about race (and they changed it) what about other "revelations" that are

<p>supposed to come from God?</p> <p>Can you trust their stance on the conception of Jesus?</p> <p>The Garden?</p> <p>Polygamy?</p> <p>The Pearl of Great Price?</p> <p>Modern Revelation?</p> <p>I suggest that we can't. Black were either an inferior race that came through Cain and would never hold any priesthood until at least after the resurrection OR Mormonism teaches doctrines that lead to hate, prejudice, and racism.</p> <p>You have more facts now.</p> <p>Go out and check them.</p> <p>Go online.</p> <p>Go to UTLM.org and read and see for yourself. Because now is the time to meet God. And to discard the things of men.</p> <p>All right . . .</p>	
<p>EMAILS EMAILS EMAILS</p>	

LORD'SWORD ANNOUNCEMENT	

<p>LIVE! From the Mecca of Mormonism – Salt Lake City, Utah . . . This is Heart of the Matter.</p>	<p>Show 45 Nauvoo November 6th 2007</p> <p>And I'm Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>STREAMING VIDEO ANNOUNCEMENT</p>	
<p>IN-THE-HOUSE</p>	
<p>SHOUT-OUTS</p> <p>Sam – who I'm sure is watching the show down in the basement, I've got a message for you. The Lord loves you and your Dad loves you so very much. And he is proud of you and the young man you are.</p> <p>Joyce B – the book is on the way. Thank you, my sister!</p> <p>Wayne R. - Thank You!</p> <p>Sharon A. – great letter.</p> <p>Ron and Marie T. – Thank you so much.</p>	
<p>LAST NIGHT was simply an outstanding event out in Odgen.</p> <p>We filled the entire restaurant – every single table in the entire restaurant was filled with people and I want to tell you how grateful I am to be apart of such a great group of believers.</p> <p>We ate, and talked, and prayed, and</p>	<p>(SHOW VIDEO CLIP HERE)</p>

<p>shared stories with each other. And then some of us retired to The Hampton Inn there in Logan where I had the privilege to baptize four people who longed to publicly profess their faith in Jesus Christ.</p> <p>COMMENT ON HOW WONDERFUL IT IS TO BAPTIZE SOMEONE WITHOUT HAVING TO HAVE SOLD THEM ON A BUNCH OF RELIGIOUS CONCEPTS, RULES, AND MEMBERSHIPS.</p> <p>Our tech genius Micah came along and shot some video – here it is:</p> <p>(SHOW CLIP)</p> <p>Next month – on the first Monday night in December (December 3rd 2007) we will be in Logan Utah at the Denny’s at</p> <p>Go to www.bornagainmormon.com for details.</p> <p>And of course, we’ll be at Denny’s at 5th South in downtown SLC at 150 West.</p>	
<p>I was a Born-Again Mormon: <i>Moving Toward Christian Authenticity</i></p>	<p>Available at:</p> <p>Oasis Books in Logan Benchmark Books in SLC Utah Lighthouse Ministry Gift of Grace in Springville Calvary Chapel SLC books Seeds bookstore at Christ Evangelical</p> <p>And of course, through our website at www.bornagainmormon.com</p>

<p>Hey, we want you to invite you to join us for our first annual Christmas open house!</p> <p>Watch this: (PLAY SPOT)</p> <p>When: Where: Why:</p>	<p>(PLAY CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE SPOT HERE)</p>
<p>TWO Mormanipulation Moments TOnight:</p> <p>First from my good friend Andy out Northern California.</p> <p>The second comes by way of Celeste who brought to my attention that the LDS Church is putting the Book of Mormon in bookstores throughout the world.</p> <p>That it will not have all the cross referenced footnotes but will just contain the text.</p> <p>What is so Mormonishious about this new user friendly Book of Mormon coming to bookstores everywhere is just some subtle twists to the introduction.</p> <p>(READ and EXPLAIN)</p>	
PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER	

<p>Last week I stole a whole half an hour of call-in time from you folks due to some family things I had to attend to.</p> <p>So tonight we are going to open up the lines early and take calls throughout the hour.</p> <p>(801) 973-TV20 (801)973-8820</p> <p>We invite first time callers. The more LDS the better. Please turn down your television sets!</p>	
<p>Let me sort of summarize a LOT of information, here, and catch us up to where we need to be in terms of the unspoken LDS Church History and the remaining time we have in the year.</p> <p>We've discussed the "translation" of the Pearl of Great Price in Kirtland in July of 1835.</p> <p>We've talked about temples, again beginning in Kirtland and Mormonistically changing ever since.</p> <p>In 1838, due to persecution, the Saints moved to a place called Far West where Joseph falsely received prophecies about it being "the" place of security . . . but it wasn't.</p> <p>I won't take the time to cover the Mormon War which occurred in 1838, nor will I detail the jail time Joseph spent - warranted and unwarranted - in 1839.</p> <p>We've also examined Joseph's secret marital additions beginning back in</p>	

1833, decelerating over a time, then manically booming in the Nauvoo years.

Suffice it to day, there had been a tremendous amount of “prophecing” and “official proclamations and promises of the Lord” from the mouth of Joseph in these many transitory years, many of which fell flat and left the Saints without a lot of faith in the man or His office of prophet, seer and revelator.

LDS Author Bushman rhetorically asks in his book Joseph Smith: Rough Stone Rolling:

Why had “God allowed the Missiourians to abuse the Saints? If this was His work, where was He?”

Bushman then shares a story of a once stalwart LDS leader, saying:

“The succession of failures, beginning with Jackson County and continuing through the Far West surrender, was too much for John Corrill, the steady clear-headed Missouri leader. At the end of his 1839 account of early Mormonism, Corrill explained why he abandoned the movement:

“When I retrace our track, and view the doings of the church for six years past, I can see nothing than convinces me that God has been our leader; calculation after calculation has failed, and plan after plan has been overthrown, and our prophet had not seemed to know the event until too late. If he said go up and prosper, still we did not prosper; but have labored and toiled, and waded through trials, difficulties, and temptations, of

various kinds, in hope of deliverance. But no deliverance came."

In a moment of some appreciated intellectual honesty, Bushman comments "Everything Corrill said was true."

The LDS will say this was all a test for the Saints, like God tested the Children of Israel in the great exodus.

I would suggest it is the typical transitory nature of all mass movement upstarts which have been repeated time and time again, from earliest history until this very day.

The persistent struggle for individualistic autonomy, trials, defection, offshoots, misunderstandings, persecutions, growth, adjustments, revisions, new revelations, corruption, deceit and descent – thesis, antithesis, synthesis.

God was not the author of this. Men were. Always have been and always will.

God authored another Gospel, pure, simple, delineated by His Word, available to all, where even the gates of hell could not prevent it.

Joseph's Mormon movement was not dissimilar to anything we do.

The first attempt can usually be considered a failure – especially in retrospect – but something about it invigorates us, teaches us, and prompts us to try again.

I remember first attempting to throw a pot on a ceramic wheel. It was difficult, but I finally created something I thought was pretty good. I put it on the mantle above my parents fireplace for all to see.

The experience furnished me with the desire to try again. And that experience taught me to try again – with each experience producing something new – both in products, but also in my experience and ability to learn.

It is evident to me that this is exactly what Joseph – and Brigham – and Mormonism today does.

I suppose this is perfectly acceptable for a corporation, for an artist, even for a family, or in a marriage.

But it just not acceptable when it comes to God. Mormonism refuses to see any difference.

And so it spins a doctrine called polygamy, sets it out before the world and says its beautiful, necessary, and of God.

Only to later take the doctrine and put it on a dark shelf – never destroying it – but hiding and renouncing it – all the while forgetting that people once embraced it as beautiful, from God, and required.

Mormonism tenaciously and continuously throws another lump of clay on the wheel, spins it up right before our eyes, and says “God” created it.

God does NOT work this way. His word is sure, and true, and reliable, and unchanging.

Well, after many attempts at creating a social and spiritual utopia, Joseph was finally able to establish the Saints in a place of temporary peace – he called it Nauvoo.

In a letter to the Saints abroad, Joseph, Sydney Rigdon and Hyrum Smith sent out a communication that explained that Nauvoo was of Hebrew origin, signifying beauty and a place of rest.

It is also significant to see what direction the man they called the Prophet went when he was allowed to “run free” for a season with his body, leadership and thoughts.

Nauvoo was a city based on MAN – with a capital M.

Even the main street names of Nauvoo were granted according to the valiancy of faithful LDS men:

Hyde
Partridge
Wells
Page
Taylor
Carlos Street
Joseph Street
Kimball Street
Young Street
Parley Street

We will spend the next few weeks speaking about who I call “the unrestrained Joseph” as he certainly

<p>lived as mayor of Nauvoo the beautiful.</p> <p>For it was here, in Nauvoo that Mormonism, Mormonistiousness, and Mormanipulation truly take form, acting as a template for all that continues to be said and done Mormonism today.</p> <p>Alright, let's take our first call.</p>	
<p>Open the Phone Lines: (801) 973-8820 (801) 973-TV20</p> <p>Please turn your televisions down and listen into the receiver.</p> <p>And please have a succinct question or comment.</p>	
<p>Lord'sWord Announcement</p> <p>Denny's on 5th South and 150 West downtown.</p>	

<p>LIVE! From the Mecca of Mormonism – Salt Lake City, Utah! THIS IS HEART of the Matter!</p>	<p>Show 46 Nauvoo II November 13th 2007</p> <p>And I'm your host Shawn McCraney.</p>
<p>STREAMING VIDEO ANNOUNCEMENT</p>	
<p>IN-THE-HOUSE</p>	
<p>SHOUT OUTS</p> <p>Are and Jochim from Norway – Andreas prays for you to be spiritually born-again.</p>	<p>Ted H. in Spanish Fork! Sharon A. in Farmington Joseph J. out in Draper Trent and Shauna in Provo David H out in Draper Barbara and Leon Dale and Gerry Joel A Karen B – thank you so very much, my sister.</p>
<p>NEW and IMPROVED Websites are a coming!</p>	<p>All sorts of cool things that will come along with them.</p>
<p>Decembers “Traveling Pastor in the Pub”</p> <p>Logan Utah:</p> <p>When: Monday, December 3rd 2007 Where: The Golden Corral Who: All of you – Christian, LDS, agnostics, whatever! What: Get together, eat, meet and then, we will retire to the:</p> <p>For an open water baptism! Start life anew confessing Jesus.</p>	

We'd love to see you all there.	
KTMW Christmas Open House:	(Watch Video) Love to see you here.
<p>MORMONIPULATION MOMENT</p> <p>Last week we mentioned the recent change in the Book of Mormon introduction.</p> <p>Since then a number of articles and new reports have focused on this change.</p> <p>I want to thank all of you for forwarding me copies of this stuff.</p> <p>Defenders of the faith say that the old introduction was written by one Bruce R. McConkie and was somehow "not scripture" nor should it have been considered the official position of the LDS Church.</p> <p>In other words, the lines that read:</p> <p>"After a thousand years, all were destroyed except the Lamanites, AND THEY ARE THE PRINCIPLE ANCESTORS OF THE AMERICAN INDIANS"</p> <p>should NEVER have been taken seriously, should NEVER have solicited artwork and stories and lessons and teachings about the American Indians, should never have caused Mormon families to adopt Indian Children in the 60's and 70's while assuming they were Lamanites, right?"</p>	

Now Bruce R. McConkie was an apostle of the LDS Church when he penned this introduction. Every apostle is deemed and sustained as a “prophet, seer, and revelator” in the LDS Church, right?

And the official church allowed people to not only believe in these words, but to build an entire system of faith on them. But now, because of recent DNA findings and other pressures, the LDS leadership has “Mormonistically” pulled another fast one, telling the world that McConkies words were not reliable.

And this is the killer to the whole thing:

Very few LDS care!

I’m telling you, somebody could find a signed confession from Joseph Smith that the Book of Mormon was just his creative writing and VERY FEW people will leave the Church or lose their testimony.

Why?

Most LDS are not concerned with knowing truth, they are concerned with feeling good, with belonging to a good cause, with what their families and colleagues think, with their position, and with controlling each other using LDS concepts like “honoring your priesthood” and “following the prophet.”

The truth barely makes the list when it comes to the drivers of a typical LDS believer.

So just understand this: These things – these Mormonistic changes” will not cause anything in the “Body Mormon” to

truly change.

The LDS leadership knows it and they will continue to do as they please to modify history and appear true.

The best we can hope for – save it be a world-wide revolution within Mormonism – is for individual Latter-day Saints to come to the truth of Jesus.

So just keep planting seeds, my friends!

Additionally, the LDS Church has long applied the title, “The Restored Gospel” to itself .

Well hang on to the newest addition in the LDS church’s push to be considered Christian.

They are now calling the Restored Gospel, “Restored Christianity!”

At a recent meeting in Washington DC, apostles Ballard and Cook repeatedly emphasized the Church’s position as “Restored Christianity.”

These guys are no slouches when it comes to PR and the Christian community has to decide if they are going to allow this or if they are going to call them on it?

Mark my words, it won’t be long before the PR machine of Mormonism will have won the world over in this cause because the LDS Church is going to continue to play a major role in media manipulation.

Do a Google search on a major chapter in the Bible and see what comes up – more and more often you will find some kind of

<p>site listed in the first five references that is an LDS source. Telling us what the Bible teaches!</p> <p>I went to a fantastic website called MRQE the other day to read some movie reviews. It's an amazing site full of thousands of film reviews from the nations top film critics.</p> <p>Guess who had an ad right there on the home page, larger than life?</p> <p>That's right, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This is a powerful and one of them most oft visited sites on the internet.</p> <p>I'm not a fear-monger nor full of "hate speech." I'm just saying that with the billions of dollars they have at their fingertips and the ability to manipulate the media, we are only beginning to see "MormonSway here to stay" in the 21st Century.</p>	
<p>Comment on Church recommendations.</p>	
<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>	
<p>"Joseph, Joseph, Joseph."</p> <p>For me, the study of his life has been a remarkable journey into the art of religion making, with an amiable and rambling Joseph utilizing everything within his grasp to convince, control, and lead the hearts of the seeking people of his day.</p> <p>I am not assigning motive - I do not know what drove the man at every stage of his</p>	

religion making – but we can assess his actions, and detail the facts of what he emphasized, de-emphasized, and changed as he moved along the path of his presenting a new religion to the world.

As a young teenager in 1820, Joseph was a mystical shaman who, by honing his craft as a treasure seeker, learned the art of convincing others “*to see what could not be seen,*” and to “*believe in the improbable over the reasonable.*”

In 1829, he presented a book that was supposedly translated from buried golden plates taken from a hill near his home by an ancient American who appeared to him as an angel of light.

He established a Church in 1830, and began to receive spontaneous (and rather convenient) “revelations” which are now contained in the Doctrine and Covenants, a book LDS believers today believe is scripture.

Time and trials brought new and more miraculous claims from the visionary young man, including the recitation of more and more advanced doctrines and predictions, the translation of some Egyptian scrolls into another book the LDS recognized as scripture, and an ability to motivate the masses through a strong millennialist voice.

Everything in Mormonsim between 1830 and 1839 was geared toward preparing the church and its people for the imminent millennial reign of the Lord and to gather the Saints into a separatist place of refuge.

Persecution pushed the Saints out of Kirtland, Ohio and into parts of Missouri, then out of Missouri and into a place where Joseph would put his final handprint on Mormonism while pushing it in an entirely new direction.

Speaking of this new home in Nauvoo, Illinois, LDS author Bushman writes:

“Joseph called the people to gather (in Nauvoo) as vigorously as ever, but in a new spirit,” But, he continues “in 1840-1841, the refuge principle was reduced to a minor theme.”

For Joseph, Nauvoo Illinois provided a new direction, and he shifted from casting “*a zealous prophetic voice of warning*” to presenting the strong and vibrant speech of a land promoter and politician.

Nauvoo, then, became the place where Mormonism first begins to foster and embrace temporal prosperity and political muscle.

Few things pleased Joseph more.

Where earlier revelations and communications were often “the dire voice of warning and the command for the Saints to be “separate from the world,” new public communications were now centered on a positive open-door policy.

A Times and Seasons article read:

“Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Nauvoo, that the Catholics, Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, Latter-day Saints, Quakers, Episcopalians, Universalists,

Unitarians, Mohammedans, and all other religious sects, and denominations, whatever, shall have free toleration, and equal privileges, in this city."

A letter written by Joseph and littered with this new "prosperity and power" hyperbole was sent abroad which said

"Let the brethren who love the prosperity of Zion, who are anxious that her stakes should be strengthened, and her cords lengthened, and who prefer her prosperity to their chief joy, come, and cast in their lots with us, and cheerfully engage in a work so glorious and sublime, and say with Nehemiah, "we his servants will rise and build."

If you close your eyes and listen, you'll hear Gordon B. Hinckley in every one of those words.

No longer was Joseph pointing to the immediate return of Jesus as the answer to the wanting and troubled Saints, but he had now entered into the newest and final phase of his life by offering the opportunities of ecumenical intercourse and the instant gratification of temporal success to anyone who sought to serve both God and Mammon.

From all of Mormon history, the Church today has built most strongly on Joseph's Nauvoo.

Prior to Nauvoo, Joseph was at one time claiming to receive an almost constant stream of revelations from the Lord, but his mind in the city called beautiful now produced very few revelations of significance.

In fact, while Nauvoo allowed Joseph to restructure and formalize many deep and significant theologies in Mormon doctrine, the actual “thus-saith-the-Lord revelations” Joseph claimed to have received were amazingly contrived!

It is amazing that LDS today can read this stuff and believe in a man who would use God’s name to promote it.

Take Doctrine and Covenants 124, for example.

Here, Joseph seems to make an attempt to command the Saints in Nauvoo to build a hotel – with God as voice.

Now you tell me, as you listen to this, if you can hear Joseph’s revelatory voice sort of just blend into a sort-of ridiculous façade?

Speaking of the Nauvoo hotel investment scheme Joseph has God say:

“And they shall not receive less than fifty dollars a share in that house, and they shall be permitted to receive fifteen thousand dollars from any one man for stock in that house. But they shall not be permitted to receive over fifteen thousand dollars from any one man . . . And if they do appropriate any portion of that stock anywhere else, only in that house, without the consent of the stockholder, and do not repay fourfold for the stock which they appropriate anywhere else, only in that house, THEY SHALL BE ACCURSED, and shall be moved out of their place, SAITH THE LORD GOD; FOR I THE LORD, am GOD, and cannot be mocked in any of these things.

It is really interesting to watch one phase

of Joseph's methods sort of dying while another phase was taking hold.

This was what drove the man – new and exciting things! And when they thinned and ran their course, he was off on another tangent – in the name of God.

In a May 1843 sermon, Joseph said:

“Excitement has become almost the essence of my life, when that dies away, I feel almost lost. When a man is reigned up continually by excitement, he becomes strong, and gains power and knowledge.”

This is important to understand about Joseph Smith, because Mormonism today ebbs and flows upon Joseph's fleeting fancies, calling them doctrine, or truths, or eternal principles, when in reality, they were merely one mans attempt to keep himself feeling alive.

Even the Book of Mormon, in the Nauvoo years, seemed to take the shelf.

After Oliver Cowdery apostatized, he took one of the two manuscripts of the Book of Mormon with him. The other Manuscript Joseph decided to bury in the cornerstone of the Nauvoo house, and interrupted the ceremony of laying the stone to run and get the last remaining manuscript.

Ebenezer Robinson was shocked to hear Joseph say, as he scanned through the manuscript to ensure it was intact:

“I have had enough trouble with this thing.”

Imagine an ancient scribe saying this about the book of Isaiah, or the Tanack?

In short order, and under this new found focus, Nauvoo grew by leaps and bounds, especially with a missionary force over seas promoting its "bounties and blessings" to the huddled and suffering masses across Western Europe.

1840 saw 200 converts arrive from England. 1200 came in 1841 and 1600 the following year. By 1844 - the year of Joseph's shootout in Carthage jail - it is said over 8,000 men, women, and children were attempting to make the Atlantic crossing.

Joseph always knew how to draw a crowd.

While Nauvoo was known as a clean town - due to some very strict laws against behaviors like vagrancy, idleness, and those unable to give a "good account for themselves" - it also became just as well known as "the community of wives."

The New York Herald reported in May of 1842 that Nauvoo men and women were *"connected in promiscuous intercourse without regard to the holy bonds of matrimony."*

It was excitement run amok.

If you recall, it was in Nauvoo that the unrestrained Joseph was allowed to finally run free. And it was in these last four years of his life that he picked up the majority of his 33 to 45 extra wives.

Of the other secret, salacious, and questionable activities occurring in Nauvoo, which included the absence of grog houses – except for the bar Joseph managed and controlled himself - a functioning brothel, and the building of a Masonic temple, which, Joseph entered just weeks before providing the Saints with their own revised ceremony - perhaps the most troubling events surrounded Joseph's drive for, and acquisition of, POWER.

Herein we discover the ultimate sensory experience for the man they called The Prophet – total, uninhibited, unrestrained power.

As noted, there were times in Joseph's early life that pulling the big con occupied his time. Another phase appears to be an intimate knowledge of the LORD and the ability to speak on His behalf. But Nauvoo brought Joseph to the place all well meaning and/or diabolical self-proclaimed prophets land:

In the cesspools of their own flesh.

Joseph was an enigma. He was kind and attacking, brash and polite, long-suffering and impatient.

He was a mans man.
He was a ladies man.
Children loved him.
Critics hated him.

And he really didn't seem to give a damn.

Fawn Brodie, in one of the best written biographies on Joseph Smith - No Man Knows My History – says of him:

(READ QUOTE)

Whether as a response to earlier persecutions – some of which was unjustified and extreme and some of which was the result of arrogant Mormon attitudes – or as a means to tout a strongly trained militia, or as a safeguard against Joseph being extradited back to Missouri to face pending charges, by 1842, Nauvoo became the home to one of the most impressive military presences in America at the time.

Now just stop and think about this for a moment.

This military presence was established by the founder of the Mormon religion.

What was their attitude out there in Nauvoo back in the day?

We're they humble seekers of Jesus?
Did they turn the other cheek?
What was their intentions?
Why were they needed and perhaps most importantly, how have the seeds of this political/militaristic bent back in Nauvoo developed and taken hold in Mormonism today?

We will explore these ideas and more next week.

Let's open the phones:
(801) 973-tv20
(801) 973-8820

Preference of callers –

[illegible]

<p>LIVE!</p> <p>From the Mecca of Mormonism . . . SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH</p> <p>This is HEART of the MATTER!</p>	<p>Show 47 Nauvoo III November 20th 2007</p> <p>And I'm Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
STREAMING VIDEO	
IN-THE-HOUSE	
<p>SHOUT-OUTS</p> <p>1 Ray and Michelle Solis</p> <p>2 Andreas and GoogleVideo work – thank you.</p> <p>3 Joseph J and David H and all the boys out there at the prison.</p> <p>4 Kenny H. from SLC – you have a lovely wife.</p> <p>5 Merrillee – great to see you again, my sister.</p> <p>6</p> <p>7</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p>	<p>It seems Heart of the Matter has somewhat of a following among the Salt Lake City homosexual community.</p> <p>Recently, I had a man present me with a book that was a collective gift from this local contingency.</p> <p>It's titled, "The Children are Free" and it is a book that spends an awful lot of time trying to show how the Bible approves of same-sex relationships . . . says things like David and Jonathan were gay, Ruth and Naomi – stuff like this.</p> <p>So, let's get to the Heart of the Matter on this, shall we?</p> <p>First, if you're a homosexual, whatever. I'm a man with far too many issues of my own to worry about your personal problems. We've just all gotta deal, right?</p> <p>But let's come to some responsible and reliable terms together here, shall we?</p>

	<p>The Bible does not condone or approve of homosexuality. No matter how artfully some idiot tries to twist it.</p> <p>What does this mean?</p> <p>It means you need to get your “gay selves” out of these “let’s make the Bible say whatever the hell we want” churches and get to a Bible teaching church you can trust that will teach you about the biblical Jesus.</p> <p>He is all that matters.</p> <p>I’ve needed to come to a relationship with the Biblical Jesus.</p> <p>Terrorists need to come to a relationship with the Biblical Jesus.</p> <p>Gordon B Hinckley needs to come to a relationship with the biblical Jesus ...</p> <p>Do you think you are special because you’re “gay,” and that you don’t need to see yourself as the sinner your are . . . that you get to rewrite or reinterpret ancient biblical texts to assuage your own pet cause?</p> <p>Look, I thoroughly enjoy gay people. You crack me up and as a whole you generally do quite well with making our standard of living . . . “prettier.”</p> <p>But Jesus is Jesus is Jesus and His Word is His Word is His Word.</p> <p>You’re no more of a sinner than me,</p>
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	<p>BUT YOUR NO LESS, ya get it, ya little punks.</p> <p>Now get yourselves to church and stop messing with the Word.</p> <p>Alright . . .</p>
<p>TRAVELING PASTOR IN THE PUB</p> <p>WHEN: Monday, December 3rd in Logan Utah at the Maranatha Baptist Church on Main Street.</p> <p>Come one, come all. 6-8:30pm</p> <p>WHY: socialize, meet and greet (but no eat). Then around 8pm we're going to hit the in-house baptismal font and anyone who would like to publicly confess Jesus and commit their lives to Him are welcomed freely to the waters.</p> <p>Of course, we will be in the Denny's tonight after the show on 5th South and 150 West in downtown SLC.</p>	
<p>How about some more . . . MORMONICIOUSNESS?</p> <p>It seems, according to an email I received from Szabe, a faithful fan, that there are even more changes in the recent introduction of the Book of Mormon.</p> <p>Listen to this one:</p>	

<p>A mean-spirited, self-promoting rumor has been bantered about lately that says Alatheia Ministries is not an approved 501 (c) 3 tax exempt corporation.</p> <p>This is not true, in the least, at all. Any and all donations given to Alatheia Ministries, Inc. have been approved by the IRA as a personal write-off.</p> <p>Additionally, there are some nasty rumors - believe it or not about <i>MOI!</i> ME!</p> <p>Some "Christian brothers" maintain that <i>"I'm not accountable to anyone,"</i> that I am a <i>"loose cannon"</i> who needs to have a board, or at least a mentor, to whom I should be accountable.</p> <p>I want to say right here and now that Alatheia Ministries, Inc. has always had a board, and that yes, I do in fact seek their advice and, believe it or not, I actually take their direction.</p> <p>Recently they advised me to do something I just did not want to do, but in spite of my own desires, I took their direction.</p> <p>(Don't expect that to happen very often, but I can say it has occurred.)</p>	

<p>Anyway, I hope this helps.</p>	
<p>And with that, let's have a word with our Holy God (who I believe has at times been a very important member of our board)</p> <p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>	
<p>My apologies to the people who attended Lord'sword this past week as I am going to share a story I happened to share with them.</p> <p>I think it will give you a living example of what Nauvoo was all about.</p> <p>When I first started into junior high, my next door neighbor (and best friend) Steve and I somehow got very interested in fire (fire, fire)</p> <p>We started with matches . . . Lighters . . . Accelerants . . . Acetyline bombs that rocked the neighborhood . . . Plastics, paper . . . Trashcans . . . you name it.</p> <p>One day, we got the brilliant idea to light our cul-de-sac on fire.</p> <p>(DESCRIBE AND FINISH STORY) - scorched the street - sticky for two years thereafter.</p> <p>Nauvoo - to Joseph Smith - was a cul-de-sac on fire.</p>	

It was new, liberating, terrifying, exhilarating, explosive, and ended in a scorching disaster.

Step by step, we've been moving toward the only place Joseph Smith could have gone after Nauvoo – to an early grave.

It seems to me that the “Nauvoo experience” – or what I call the years of “*unrestrained Joseph*” – was about all that mid 19th century America could take.

Remember, the early Americans were extremely sensitive to anything that smacked of religious despotism, tyranny, and/or the flexing of unauthorized militaristic muscle.

Additionally, they were a moral people who were horrified and reactive to licentiousness – whether real or implied – and had a built-in ability to violently react when their “Victorian sensitivities” were being assaulted.

The more aggressive, arrogant, and outlandish the “*unrestrained Joseph*” became, the more justification people from all walks of life – possibly even those from within Mormonism itself – gave to see him removed.

Removed, but no more a martyr than a modern-day Jim Jones, David Koresh, or Poe.

If you recall, last week we discussed several interesting elements present in Joseph's “*unrestrained city of Nauvoo*” which contributed to the final shootout at

Carthage jail.

The Saints had been driven from their homes in Missouri by impatient and reactionary Missourians who didn't appreciate the boasting that came from the Mormon communities about their heavenly right to take over and control the State.

Joseph and his brother Hyrum, however, were captured and placed in Liberty Jail while the rest of the Mormons fled to a place called Quincy, Illinois.

When Joseph and Hyrum escaped from Liberty jail in Missouri and joined the Saints in Quincy, they quickly decided to relocate to a place 50 miles north on the Mississippi - which they renamed Nauvoo.

Now remember, Joseph and Hyrum were on the run from the law. I believe this situation led Joseph to do many of the things he did in establishing the city of Nauvoo.

Determined to make Nauvoo a final home for the Saints, he sent missionaries to Europe and the East Coast to convince the disenfranchised of the world to come and enjoy its bounteous blessings.

As mentioned last week, many converts came. And by 1844, Nauvoo rivaled Chicago in size with 15,000 citizens - which certainly raised eyebrows along the western borders of the country.

Around 1840, a newcomer arrived at Nauvoo by the name of John C. Bennett, and it appears that brother Bennett was

bottom-line a very shady character . . . shady, but politically quite adept and persuasive.

Bennett was quickly embraced by Joseph, and with his political sway set forth to pushing the new Nauvoo City Charter before the Illinois legislature.

In doing so, Nauvoo secured some very liberal license to operate as a city since the Illinois legislature was not yet too savvy on municipal law.

This was a dream come true for the utopian minded and carnally-inclined man like Joseph.

Joseph and Bennett soon established Nauvoo's government and governance – making up their own unique laws, acting as the judge and jury in their own courts, getting elected to offices and positions, and controlling a militia set forth to maintain what they described as “peace.”

So think about this for a minute.

You've got Joseph Smith who escaped from jail in Missouri and had a history of militaristic leanings (with the Zion's camp debacle among other things on his resume).

Then he founds a city, takes great liberties in how the city is established relative to common municipal practices, and this causes the surrounding towns-people to become very uneasy.

Where newcomer Bennett became mayor, Joseph appointed himself as the “lieutenant general” of the Nauvoo

militia, which quickly grew to a force of over 2000 soldiers.

These soldiers were not laying around and guarding the flower beds. They marched and paraded as often as they could, goose-stepping, as it were, toward their unspoken goal of national prominence!

What would you think, what fears would arise in your heart, if a powerful and charismatic polygamist living just outside Las Vegas, Nevada established a theodemocratic city with its own military of over two thousand armed and trained men?

How would the government respond?

When the Church celebrated their eleventh anniversary in April of 1841, they invited outsiders to come and witness the pomp and celebration of the Saints and their choreographed army.

The editor of an out of town newspaper named Thomas Sharp showed up but instead of being impressed and writing rave reviews, he leaves and becomes an ardent foe against Joseph and all that he represents in his unrestrained city.

This added fuel to the fires.

In April of 1841, Joseph *reintroduced* polygamy in Nauvoo by secretly marrying another woman, Louisa Beamon.

With Bennett being his closest confidant by this time, he trusted the shady

newcomer with the “secret rite” essential to eternal life and godhood.

But Joseph quickly learned that Bennett did not handle practices involving women real well and essentially used the eternal principle to just sleep with as many women he could.

Joseph did two . . . but he married them first, and then carried on with decorum, class, and God at his side.

The two men had a major falling out.

Bennett left Nauvoo and the church, but by golly, he couldn’t leave the Church alone –especially Joseph.

So he starts writing articles to let anyone with eyes read all about the secret practices of “*Joseph unrestrained.*”

More flames.

But there was more. Lot’s more.

Joseph decided to sued the state of Missouri and petitioned the federal government to step up and reward the Saints with all the property and valuables they had lost when they were driven from State.

He didn’t, however, approach this with the decorum of taking on another secret wife but instead he threw down some scary invectives regarding the issue. Additionally, he had made enemies with the democrats and the whigs for various reasons, and could therefore find no support for his cause of reparations. So Joseph did what only Joseph could do

<p>- he poured gasoline over the city and announced that he was going to run for president of the United States.</p> <p>Now, ask yourself this:</p> <p>What would Jesus do?</p> <p>Is this the gospel of Jesus in action or is it the Gospel of Joseph unbound?</p> <p>Think.</p> <p>THINK.</p> <p>Was any or all or part of this of God? Really?</p> <p>Would Jesus truly establish a city where woman - with husbands and not - are secretly married by the dozens to its military leader who was running from the law, running for president and running the only bar in town?</p>	
<p>I think Fawn Brodie, in one of the best written biographies on Joseph Smith - No Man Knows My History - describes Joseph best:</p> <p>(READ QUOTE)</p>	
<p>Now, I am certain, that there are in our viewing audience, who have somehow convinced themselves that God, in fact, was behind these actions of Joseph in Nauvoo.</p> <p>Let's conclude by taking a look at the attitude Joseph exhibited in his unrestrained years.</p> <p>And we'll open up the phone lines so</p>	

<p>operators can begin screening through the calls.</p> <p>(801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p> <p>We would love to hear from first-time LDS callers if at all possible.</p>	

Pastor in the Pub TONIGHT! Denny's on 5 th South and 125 West in downtown SLC.	

<p>LIVE! From the Mecca of Mormonism . . . SALT LAKE CITY!</p> <p>This is Heart of the Matter . . .</p>	<p>Show 48 Nauvoo IV December 4th 2007</p> <p>And I'm Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
STREAMING VIDEO	
IN-THE-HOUSE TONIGHT	??
SHOUT OUTS	<p>Kyle, who I baptized Sunday in Kim's backyard Jacuzzi - I love you, my brother.</p> <p>Jesse - from the fitness center - great to meet you.</p> <p>Roy Murdock - a shout out and a prayer, my friend.</p> <p>Ron and Marie - thanks and God bless.</p>
<p>Last night in Logan, at the Maranatha Baptist Church on Main, we held our monthly Traveling Pastor in the Pub for the month of December.</p> <p>It was a wonderful event, attended by maybe 80 to 90 people and my heart-felt thanks to Maranatha Baptist Church of Logan for opening up the house for this meeting.</p>	

<p>Had a great worship, discussion and topped it all off with a baptism.</p> <p>Here's a short clip.</p>	<p>(Video Clip?)</p> <p>Lucy – who was baptized, and her husband Corey and daughters and sons and grandsons are just the salt of the earth and I love them all with all my heart.</p> <p>It was a great honor to baptize you, Lucy.</p> <p>Now, speaking of open baptisms, January 2008 Traveling Pastor in the Pub will be in Salt Lake City.</p> <p>Monday Night, January 7th with an open baptism following.</p> <p>Stay tuned for details but know that ALL are invited.</p>
<p>I WAS A BORN-AGAIN MORMON</p>	<p>(Insert Shot)</p> <p><i>Available at</i></p> <p>Utah Lighthouse Ministry Benchmark Books Calvary Chapel SLC Christian Gift and Bible Christ Evangelical in Orem Gift of Grace in Springville Sam Weller's in SLC Oasis Books in Logan</p> <p>And you can always get the books from us online at www.bornagainmormon.com</p> <p>If you can't afford one, tell us and we'll get it out to you for free.</p>

	<p>I would suggest to you that the book would make a wonderful gift to any seeking Latter-day Saint and any Christian interested in learning how to reach out to their LDS family and friends.</p>
<p>More Mormoniciousness . . .</p>	<p>Our Mormonicious Moment tonight comes from a call we received last week here on the show.</p> <p>The LDS caller claimed that salvation meant entering the celestial kingdom.</p> <p>Being saved, he promised, meant entering the celestial Kingdom – then he qualified his comment by stating that it was not exaltation in the celestial kingdom, but only an entrance into it.</p> <p>I called him duplicitous and challenged his clarity and directness.</p> <p>The reasons for my position are multi-fold.</p> <p>First, the Christian meaning of saved should be the LDS sense of exaltation.</p> <p>Or, when a Latter-day Saint says exaltation, they should equate it with the Christian sense of being saved.</p> <p>This doesn't happen due to the word games most Mormon apologists use.</p> <p>But even the LDS word games are not consistent and are in fact, a murky blend of inexactitudes.</p> <p>Let me explain why.</p>

	<p>On one hand, the caller last week was correct in the saying that all a Latter-day Saint needed to enter the celestial Kingdom was faith, repentance, baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost.</p> <p>But listen to the attitude Joseph Fielding Smith has toward those who enter into the celestial kingdom only:</p> <p>(READ QUOTE)</p> <p>Now remember, a person must be BAPTIZED by the LDS to enter this celestial kingdom, as any other baptism is invalid and is the entrance into a lower kingdom.</p> <p>But the inconsistencies continue on.</p> <p>For Article of Faith _____ states:</p> <p><i>We believe that all mankind may be saved by obedience to the Laws and Ordinances of the Gospel.</i></p> <p>And the Laws and ordinances of the LDS gospel far exceed faith, repentance, baptism, and the gift of the Holy Ghost.</p> <p>They include a veritable potpourri of other conditions and requirements. So in this sense, the caller was exceptionally misleading.</p> <p>Also, the Book of Mormon teaches that people are “<i>saved by grace after all that they can do.</i>” Again, another inconsistency on the application of the term saved.</p> <p>In the end, this Mormoniciousness leads to nothing more than the license to change</p>
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	<p>emphasis as needed and to undermine the simplicity and truth of salvation not by baptism, not by works, not by calling it a level below exaltation, but by grace through faith in Jesus alone.</p>
<p>Hey – a couple of other things.</p> <p>First, we’re going to try and follow up on Mitt Romney’s presentation of faith that he is coming out with this Thursday morning.</p> <p>Listen to what he says very carefully and see if he stands by his religion, or if he spins it to please the listening world.</p> <p>Also, when speaking in Logan last night, I made a statement I want to repeat here:</p> <p>In my opinion, the LORD is not going to change Mormonism until the Christian churches of Utah are prepared to handle the deluge.</p> <p>And the only way Utah Christians can be prepared to handle the fall of Josephite and Brighamite Mormonism is if they are trained and taught in the word of God.</p> <p>So let me make a bold statement:</p> <p>If you attend a Christian Church that isn’t teaching the Word from the Word with the Word by the Word, go somewhere else. Or demand that your pastor drop his “big production approach to church,” with its associated motivational messages, book</p>	

<p>reviews, and feel good theologies, And don't open that check book until you're properly fed.</p> <p>Because there is no way YOU are going to take root, thrive and grow without hearing the Word of God taught.</p> <p>And you need to be firmly grounded before you can help a Latter-day Saint understand God through Jesus.</p> <p>This state need revolution – and not just from within Mormonism.</p> <p>Finally, THIS THURSDAY EVENING, right here at the station, we are holding our first annual Christmas open house.</p> <p>Watch this ></p>	<p>(SHOW SPOT FOR OPEN HOUSE)</p> <p>And with that, let's have a word of prayer.</p>
PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER	
<p>With the increased growth and power of Nauvoo, Joseph's ambitions for power became more and more vocal.</p> <p>He began to see Nauvoo as the capital of international religion, as so stated in Doctrine and Covenants 133:7-9.</p>	

He reminded the members at their October conference that Zion (or Nauvoo) was to

“become the praise, the joy, and the glory of the whole earth.”

Funny, but the Bible tends to apply the appellations of praise and joy and glory to Jesus.

Joseph saw Nauvoo as the beginning of a world movement – of world infiltration and world domination.

THIS ATTITUDE REMAINS WITH THE LDS CHURCH LEADERS TODAY.

Joseph dictated a revealing proclamation to “all the KINGS of the world in the Spring of 1841, which said, in part

That the powers of the earth were to “give heed to the light and glory of zion,” that “the set time has come to favor her,” that “Nauvoo’s temple would “undoubtedly attract the attention of the great men of the earth.”

Joseph proclaimed:

“Awake, O kings of the earth! Come ye, O! Come ye with your gold and your silver to the help of my people!”

The arrogance, the lust of the eyes, the lusts of the flesh, the pride of life had set in.

Once obtaining the right to be Nauvoo's lieutenant general, Joseph began to prefer the title of "General" over that of president or prophet.

Speaking to the people of Nauvoo, Joseph said on one occasion:

(page 351-352 Brodie) "All power" paragraphs.

Now this is motivational stuff – but motivation by what and motivation to do what?

Certainly, the motivation is NOT the gospel of Jesus Christ!

For what does this gospel of our Savior tell us?

1st John 2:5 *But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he (meaning Jesus) walked.*

Philippians 3:3 *For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.*

Galatians 3:3 *Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?*

Galatians 4:9 *But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire*

<p><i>again to be in bondage?</i></p> <p>These final years of <i>Joseph unrestrained</i> are the years where Mormonism today has taken the most direction today.</p> <p>READ CARD QUOTE FROM BRODIE.</p>	
<p>We have spoken of a lot of things Joseph Smith Jr.'s introduced in the last four years in Unrestrained Nauvoo.</p> <p>But I would suggest that the most overriding characteristic Joseph passed on to the Church today, which truly culminated in these last four years of his life, was that of sheer unadulterated arrogance.</p> <p>When a supposed Prophet of God can make a statement like this</p> <p>(read Boast statement)</p> <p>And people follow him today, such a people cannot help but to also inherent his spirit of arrogance.</p> <p>How do I justify saying this?</p> <p>Allow _____ reasons.</p> <p>First, we've read direct quotes from the founding prophet's mouth.</p> <p>How about some arrogance from Brigham Young?</p> <p>(READ Brigham Young</p>	

<p>QUOTES)</p> <p>How about some arrogance from other leaders?</p> <p>Gordon B Hinckley's comment on not worshipping the traditional Christ.</p> <p>Book by apostle Russel M Nielson: <i>The Power within Us</i>. (with first chapter titled The Magnificence of Man)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The Prophet Joseph Fielding Smith's <i>The Way to Perfection</i>.</p> <p>Where does all this come from?</p> <p>Well let me show you here on the trusty white board.</p> <p>Joseph taught that . . .</p> <p>Matter</p> <p>God</p> <p>Jesus</p>	<p>Adam and Eve</p> <p>Salvation</p> <p>Man</p>
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All of it is based on MAN and MEN!

Our strength!
Our power within.
Our magnificence.

Which is a bunch of shitake
mushrooms.

And all of it leads to the same place,
the same attitude that Joseph had
throughout his life –

An attitude of superiority.
Arrogance.
Pride.

How could it not?

But what does the Bible say?

<p>Let's go to the phones:</p> <p>(801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p>	
<p>2 MINUTES LEFT</p> <p>Listen – this is an FYI for those men and women who qualify to hear it.</p> <p>It is year end and many people look for places to support ministries at this time of year.</p> <p>We seek your support in terms of prayers, volunteerism, and monetary contributions – but only if you qualify and are so inclined.</p> <p>To qualify to support Alatheia Ministries financially, we would ask that you first contribute to your local congregation first, and that you believe God has moved you to assist our efforts in this area.</p> <p>If you are inclined to donate to Alatheia ministries, you can do so by writing:</p> <p>Alatheia Ministries, Inc 314 South Redwood Road SLC UT 84104</p>	<p>OR you can contribute online by going to www.bornagainmormon.com</p> <p>and looking under “support this ministry.”</p> <p>All donations are tax-deductable under the 501(c) 3 code of the IRS.</p> <p>Alright, got that out of the way.</p> <p>NOW . . .</p>

<p>Pastor in the Pub – TONIGHT! At Denny’s on fifth South in downtown SLC.</p> <p>And remember, this Thursday night, right here on Redwood Road, from 7-9, our Christmas open house!</p>	

<p>LIVE! From the Mecca of Mormonism . . . SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH!</p> <p>This is Heart of the Matter.</p>	<p>December 11th 2007 A Mormon President?</p> <p>And I'm Shawn McCraney, you host.</p>
<p>Streaming Video Announcement</p>	
<p>Nearly two years ago we aired the first of these weekly, hour-long live call-in shows where I address, compare and contrast biblical Christianity with present-day Mormonism.</p> <p>Tonight may turn out to be the most critical show we have ever – or will ever – produce.</p> <p>Last week, United States Presidential candidate Mitt Romney gave a speech in _____ regarding his Mormon faith.</p> <p>Tonight it is my intention to fairly and reasonably argue why the United States of America must not – MUST NOT – elect an LDS, or Mormon president.</p> <p>But please allow me to make something perfectly clear.</p> <p>I personally admire Mitt Romney. He's an attractive man, a fine communicator, demonstrably successful, and he appears to be a man of integrity who truly lives his faith. I find him humble, affable, and believe that pound for pound, he <i>in and of himself</i>, qualifies - more than any other candidate - to be the next president of the United States.</p> <p>In his recent speech on his faith, Romney likened himself – and the speech he was</p>	

giving – to the late president John F Kennedy and a campaign speech he gave regarding his faith – Catholicism.

I would suggest that no comparison exists.

Mitt Romney is a far better man – and Mormon – than Kennedy was ever a Catholic.

And this is the point: The Catholic faith of JFK was meaningless as he was notorious for breaking many of its most sacred tenets.

ROMNEY, on the other hand, is Mormon through and through. And while his dedication and devotion to such a clean living faith is to be admired, the *object* of his life-long dedication – Mormonism – must be examined before any American chooses to put him in the White House.

Allow me, for the next twenty minutes or so, to present ten reasons why –

America cannot elect a Mormon President. Romney may deserve the office, but Mormonism does not.

This cannot be forgotten.

Within ten years of establishing the LDS Church, the political ambitions of Mormonism began to surface.

The Book of Mormon is riddled with political themes popular in the day of author Joseph Smith, and it didn't take long for the Church itself to embrace political ambitions and militaristic themes within their ranks.

In fact, in the last years of Joseph Smith's life, he came to prefer the title of "General" to that of "prophet" or President of the Church.

He oozed military prowess in his daily life, dressing in blue and gold braided uniforms, high military boots, and a chapeau topped with flowing ostrich feathers.

A United States artillery officer witnessed a full-dress parade of the Mormon militia in 1844 (which was nearly 3000 strong) wrote an article on June 17th 1842 in the New York Herald described them as

"a fearful host, filled with religious enthusiasm, and led by ambitious and talented officers . . . the time will come when this gathering host of religious fanatics will make this country shake to its center. A western empire is certain."

To be sure, Mormonism – almost from its beginning – has sought, fought, strived, and worked to become a world political power.

Speaking of politics, founder Joseph Smith once said:

"One man empowered by Jehovah has more influence with the children of men, than eight hundred million men led by the precepts of men."

The important thing to remember about this statement is Joseph – and Mormonism today – believe that THEY and THEY ALONE are empowered by Jehovah.

Joseph Smith's ultimate intentions were to

establish what he called "The Kingdom of God" here on earth.

To Mormons then, and Mormons today, the Kingdom of God is MORMONISM.

It is not a mixture of believers. It is not a body of believers. It is not an interfaith or non-denominational approach. It is Mormonism.

And it has been the intentions of Mormon leaders since 1840 for MORMONISM to take over the world.

On March 11th of 1844, Joseph began to organize what he hoped would eventually become a sovereign Mormon state – Missouri – and he secretly formed a council of fifty "princes" to become "the highest court on earth."

Mormon Bishop George Miller, member of the council of fifty wrote that "the council of fifty would "at once dominate the United States."

One of the first actions of the council was to "ordain" Joseph Smith as "King of the Kingdom of God."

Joseph Smith said of himself:

"I calculate to be one of the instruments of setting up the kingdom of Daniel by the word of the Lord, and I intend to lay a foundation that will revolutionize the whole world."

"It will not be by the sword or gun that this kingdom will roll on," he said, "the power of truth is such that all the nations will be under the NECESSITY of OBEYING the gospel."

The political ambitions and rhetoric of Mormonism's founder goes on and on, culminating in his running for president of the United States – just like Mitt 170 years later.

Whether Mitt shares in Joseph's theopolitical ambitions is unknown to me, but rest assured, Mormon leadership and the membership today will use every second of his reign to push their long-standing desire to rule the world . . . *the Mormon way*, which is in the end, *the only way*.

Well, you may be saying to yourself, Joseph Smith was a long time ago, and Mormonism has moved well beyond the days of militias, political motives, and the goal of world domination.

In his speech, Mitt Romney even said:

"Let me assure you that no authorities of my church, or of any other church for that matter, will ever exert influence on presidential decisions."

Without questioning his integrity or intentions, we must take exception to such a statement.

Mr. Romney also said –

"If I am fortunate to become your president, I will serve no one religion, no one group, no one cause, and no one interest. A President must serve only the common cause of the people of the United States."

Then in the next breath he conceded:

"I believe in my Mormon faith and I endeavor

*to live by it. My faith is the faith of my fathers
– I will be true to them and to my beliefs.”*

Though motivating and inspiring, these statements are in frank opposition to each other based on fact. And let me give you _____ examples why.

First, Mormonism is a political machine. And it uses its power and influence to sway political decisions.

In my home State of California several years ago, there was a proposition presented regarding a homosexuals right to marry.

Within the LDS wards and stakes, Bishops and Stake Presidents called on stalwart members of the Church to not only put signs on their front lawns and campaign in opposition to the proposition, but to donate significant sums of money to the cause.

Here in the state of Utah, the Mormon church influences many of the decisions that serve to govern the state – including liquor laws and aspects of the media. Yet candidate Romney said in his speech:

“No religion should dictate to the state nor should the state interfere with the free practice of religion.”

Mormonism has worked very hard to establish itself in the acquisition of world languages, family records, the formation of an invasive missionary force, in real estate holdings, and in filling important positions in the CIA, the FBI, and other influential agencies and corporations.

They are a multi-billion dollar tax-exempt mega-conglomeration that maintains a fervent and unwavering effort to see Joseph's dream of world domination reach fruition.

How are they accomplishing this? How have they come so far so fast?

A major contributor is their effective and persistent use of sacred temple rites.

Now our ministry has been very careful to treat these secret rites and rituals with some respect as Latter-day Saints are forcefully taught to hold them extremely sacred.

But I will tell you that every Mormon who enters an LDS temple is asked prior to being allowed inside if he or she

"sustains the LDS prophet and apostles as prophets, seers, and revelators on earth."

Then once inside, each person enters into a number of public agreements (or covenants).

Candidate Romney is no exception.

And in this sacred or secret temple, he covenanted or promised – with his right arm raised before "God, heavenly hosts, and the people around him," that he would sacrifice all that he has, including his own safety and life, to sustain and defend the Kingdom of God!"

And what do Mormon's believe the Kingdom of God is?

MORMONISM.

It is the theocratic kingdom run and operated NOT by presidents of the United States, but by the prophet residing right here in Salt Lake City.

Candidate Romney, an ardent faithful Latter-day Saint also promised in the temple of the Church he wholly supports to dedicate EVERYTHING – himself, his talents, his time, all the resources he has acquired and all the resources he might acquire in the future to . . .

To what????

“to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, for building the Kingdom of God on earth.”

These are promises he has made to God offered by a religious system he embraces in a sacred place very few Mormons are in actuality allowed to go.

Finally, candidate Romney said – and I believe him when he says this:

“I love the profound ceremony of the Catholic Mass, the approachability of God in the prayers of the Evangelicals, the tenderness of spirit among the Pentacostals, the confident independence of the Lutherans, the ancient traditions of the Jews, unchanged through the ages, and the commitment to frequent prayer of the Muslims.”

Unfortunately, Mormonism historically – and even in the present day – does not support this personal, and possibly politically convenient perspective.

Since the very beginning of the LDS

Church, missionaries have gone out into the world with a door to door message.

The message includes a story about a fourteen year old boy who enters a grove of trees to pray and during this prayer he is met by God who tells him, when he asks what church to join, that he should join none of them – that they are all – ALL – the Lutherans, the Pentacostals, the Catholics – especially the Catholics and abomination and that their teachers are ALL corrupt.

This message has not changed today. Sit down with any Mormon missionary in the world and ask them –

“Is Mormonism the only way acceptable to God” and they will tell you, *“Yes, it is.”*

Ask them, *“Will my faith get me to heaven to live with God?”* And they will say *“no.”*

Why will they say this? Because it is the doctrine and the teachings of this faith.

They may spin it a while, they may shuck and dance around the answers, but in the end, these are their ardent beliefs.

Now in conclusion, the MOST important question every American has to ask themselves is this:

What will it mean to MORMONISM if the most powerful man in the world – the president of the United States - is a Mormon?

It matters not what you think of candidate Romney. It does not matter that the other candidates are inferior to him or that our

<p>choices for president are limited.</p> <p>What matters is what you think about the facts of Mormonism. Because in the end, if Mitt Romney takes office, it is Mormonism that will win.</p> <p>They have waited for this day, and are prepared to take every advantage of it should it come.</p> <p>Please don't let this happen.</p> <p>I like Mitt Romney and I think he actually deserves the presidency.</p> <p>But Mormonism does not deserve the association in the least. And if it is granted, it will use it like they use everything else, to building up of their own special kingdom which you will either willingly serve, or will be forced to serve in the end.</p> <p>(BEAT)</p> <p>Alright, let's open up the phone lines:</p> <p>(801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p> <p>EMAILS</p>	
<p>With five minutes left.</p> <p>"Hey, I'm going to end the calls with five minutes left to make the announcements we usually make at the introduction of the show.</p>	
<p>In-the-House tonight</p>	

<p>Shout outs:</p> <p>Tyson and Alex - Fantastic young men.</p> <p>Ruthan – lots of emails about our conversation last week. Many people praying for your eyes and ears to open, my friend.</p>	
KTMW Open House	
Pastor in the Pub	
Lord'sWord	
New Website!	
<p>Finally, a special shout out with the help of a very special friend – Cassidy McCraney!</p> <p>So we shout out to:</p> <p>Cassidy: Mom Shawn: Delaney Cassidy: Mallory</p>	

Shawn: Dader	

<p>LIVE!</p> <p>From the “Mecca of Mormonism”</p> <p>This is Heart of the Matter.</p>	<p>Show 50 Gunfight at Carthage</p> <p>December 18th 2007</p> <p>And I’m your host, Shawn McCraney.</p>
Streaming Video Announcement	
In-The-House	
<p>Shout-Outs</p> <p>Mary H. in Bingham Canyon.</p> <p>Teresa C.</p> <p>Zan for sharing her heart through prose and poetry.</p> <p>Patricia T for her fine writing skills.</p> <p>Steven and Natalie F.</p> <p>Kathy, the former non-Christian known as Maggie who has turned her life over to the Lord!</p> <p>Mark U.</p>	
<p>I Was a Born-Again Mormon</p> <p>Available at:</p> <p>Christian Gift and Bible</p> <p>Utah Lighthouse Ministry</p> <p>CCSLC</p> <p>Christ EV in Orem</p> <p>Gift of Grace in Springville</p> <p>Sam Weller’s downtown</p>	<p>* Lost Benchmark books as a carrier of Born-Again Mormon, which is sad to me because the people who own and run the store are very nice people who I really love and enjoy.</p>

<p>Amazon.com www.bornagainmormon.com</p>	
<p>Traveling Pastor January SALT LAKE CITY!</p> <p>When: Monday, January 7th from 6 to 8pm. Where: Denny's on 5th South</p> <p>For those of you unable to come to Pastor in the Pub in Tuesday nights - or anyone else - we invite you to attend.</p> <p>Afterward, we will retire to a local collection of warm water to baptize people who desire to publicly commit their lives to Jesus. Again, all are welcome.</p>	
<p>Last Wednesday evening I attended a private screening of an up and coming documentary titled:</p> <p>A Mormon President.</p> <p>There is so much that could be said regarding this but I want to say one thing for certain:</p> <p>Mormonism is fighting back.</p> <p>In the film, Richard Bushman's wife boldly made a statement of something to the effect of:</p> <p>"Why do the Christians get to decide what is Christian? I think maybe we (meaning the LDS) ought to start saying we are Christian and they're not!"</p> <p>If you care even the least little bit about sound biblical Christianity, you have to take</p>	

<p>exception to this growing attitude.</p> <p>But it doesn't stop there.</p> <p>On December 16th of this year, in the Deseret Morning News, reporter Leigh Dethman reported on a speech Elder M. Russell Ballard gave at BYU Hawaii.</p> <p>Here are some quotes:</p> <p>(READ FROM ARTICLE and COMMENT)</p> <p>Let me tell you, this rolling, shifting, politically minded institution will not stop its spin until they have control.</p> <p>They are attempting to dominate media profiling, public opinion and the dissemination of information.</p> <p>And they've the means to do it.</p> <p>They will long and loud cry like babies that they are being persecuted - and they'll bring up being driven from Missouri, and Haun's Mill, and anti-Mormon literature, but they will never, ever look in the mirror.</p> <p>How about a few reflective statements from the leading brethren of the Church, huh?</p>	
<p>Finally, we received a number of emails and newspaper clippings from people regarding the recent Deseret News faux pas.</p> <p>It seems the paper ran a "Christmas I Remember Best" contest and a seventh grade teacher submitted her students work for consideration.</p>	

One Michelle Bliss didn't win, but the subsidiary paper – Church News – which is delivered with the Deseret News to Mormon and Non-Mormon homes alike on Saturdays, thought Michelle's essay was worthy of publication.

That was until the editor learned the young writer "wasn't a Mormon!"

It seems that when the LDS Church News editor, Gerry Avant, called Michelle's home to tell her they wanted to print her recitation, she asked, "Are you LDS?"

Michelle said no.

And Gerry Avant told her that the Christmas Michelle Remembered Best would not be published.

No Mormon, no print your heart-felt story. You see, being a member would make the story valid, but not being a member automatically makes it, well, inferior.

Now, I understand this. I understand that if there is a church owned paper, with a Church owned supplement called The Church News that is sent out free to people the writers quoted may be required – if its THAT kind of Church – to be a member of the Church publication.

What I don't understand is why ANYONE – ANYONE – who is not LDS would pay one cent to a newspaper that is owned by a the LDS religion, especially when it will sends you its religious paper free every Saturday, but has the audacity to refuse to publish the work of a seventh grade girl who is not one of them!

<p>What the heck is wrong with you people?</p> <p>Boycott that freaking rag. Cancel your subscription. Read the Trib (if you've got to read a newspaper) but show them that they can't rule you in this way too.</p> <p>Holy insanity.</p>	
<p>Three more quick things – before we pray.</p> <p>First, we've got a new website format and design. Please visit www.bornagainmormon.com</p> <p>As a result, I've lost the last 400 emails that have been sent to me.</p> <p>Please forgive me, and resent them, if they were important.</p> <p>Second, I have received a few emails from people complaining that I cut the last caller off last week who had a pressing question about whether I've read the Book of Mormon and prayed about it.</p> <p>Some have even suggested that I cut him off because I was intimidated by the depth of his inquiry.</p> <p>Actually, I had only 20 seconds to get my daughter Cassidy on the air – and that was far more important to me than the question.</p> <p>Nevertheless, I invite the caller to please call back tonight so we can continue to discuss it.</p> <p>Finally, the white Horse prophecy.</p>	

<p>From what I can tell, we have no exact evidence of when or where Joseph Smith made the actual prophecy, but we do have a number of LDS church leaders refer to it over the years.</p> <p>As I said last week, the White Horse prophecy refers to a time when the US constitution will hang by a thread and Mormonism – its priesthood leaders – are said to rush in and save it.</p> <p>Now I also mentioned that I have heard this idea bantered about since I was knee high to a Bishop.</p> <p>LDS leaders tend to pooh-pooh the notion today (they know the world will find terror in the idea).</p> <p>But here – from the ever trustworthy archives of Utah Lighthouse Ministry – UTLM.ORG we have some verifiable references – just to show you that I am not making this stuff up.</p> <p>(READ QUOTES)</p>	
<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>	
<p>Well, here we are.</p> <p>At the end of the year. We’ve spent the majority of our time discussing Joseph Smith, Jr. and his history.</p> <p>We’ve discussed his parental influences. His upbringing.</p> <p>His treasure seeking and magic practices. We talked about the first vision at length. We examined the Book of Mormon over a</p>	

seven week period.

We talked about the claims to priesthood,
The establishment of the church,
migrations, and the Pearl of Great Price.

We discussed convenient revelations, then
spent a three weeks on polygamy, which
concluded with guests Sandra Tanner and
Doris Hansen.

We talked about LDS missionary work, then
spent five weeks on the topic of temples
ancient, Masonic, and Mormon.

We took respites – discussing all sorts of fun
stuff – and then we asked an important
question on one show –

“Are they Christian?”

We then spent some time discussing the
blacks and the priesthood issue – two
weeks, if memory serves, and have
essentially been in Nauvoo for the last four
or five weeks- excepting last where we
covered a current event in the
Mormon/Christian saga – the US
Presidency.

Everything we have discussed helped lay
the path that lead Joseph and Hyrum Smith
to Carthage Jail.

His charisma.

His political ambitions.

His uninhibited lust for power.

His dozens of secret wives – young and old.

His magical thinking.

His mystical pronouncements.

His toying with tyranny.

His ability to weave a tall tale.

Where his families magic practices gave him function, Nauvoo gave him form.

His story began with enchantment; it ended in myth.

Tonight, we conclude with the final hours and acts of Joseph Smith, Junior, founder, prophet, and visionary who created through synthesis this thing called Mormonism – this thing that has affected most people in this state in one form or another.

Interestingly enough, where Joseph cut his teeth on freedom of speech and the idea that tyranny and anarchy are simply anathema to God and America, it was an act of anarchy which smacked of tyranny that brought the man down from the second floor window of a jail cell to the earth below – dead.

You see, some of Joseph's most trusted friends – William Law especially – decided they had had enough of "Joseph Unrestrained."

Joseph's secret proposal to Law's wife appears to be what drove Law to expose him.

And, being America, the land of the free that it is, they decided to publish a newspaper which would detail all the evils they had witnessed from the hand of whom they believed was a fallen prophet.

LOOOONG story short, Joseph ordered this printing press destroyed. The paper was called – in this single and only edition – the Nauvoo Expositor.

That is an act of anarchy – to destroy the property of another.

And it was an act of tyranny to destroy a printing press – especially in a country founded in the blood and suffering to protect free speech.

So, again, long story short, Joseph Smith, his brother Hyrum, John Taylor, and Willard Richards were taken to Carthage jail.

Prior to being arrested, Joseph, as he had so many times before, escaped capture, and was in the process of fleeing Nauvoo with his brother Hyrum when a letter was rushed to him by his old friend Porter Rockwell from Emma.

A man named Reynolds Calhoon who accompanied Rockwell from Nauvoo across the Mississippi, said to Joseph:

“When the Shepherd deserts his flock, who is to keep the wolves from devouring them.”

After reading Emma’s letter asking him to return, Joseph said:

“If my life is no value to my friends, it is of none to myself.”

And Hyrum convinced the men to return and face the music – though Joseph replied:

“If you go back, I will go with you, but we will be butchered.”

The whole chronology is readily available of Joseph’s last hours in jail, and because of time, I am going to let you read them yourself. (Go to UTLM.org)

The unspoken history usually omits that fact that Joseph and the men drank wine in their last hours – not that I care – I would too, but Mormon leadership cares, and are reticent to given such details to Joseph’s true believers.

Let me rehearse the few last moments of Joseph Smith’s life and then examine three additional facts relative to his death that are worth examination.

By the way, the Times and Seasons newspaper, in describing the events at Carthage jail, refers to Joseph as “General Joseph.” In the cell with General Joseph was Hyrum his brother, Willard Richards, and John Taylor – who later became a president of the Church.

First of all, Joseph Smith was murdered. We can say this because he was in the supposed protective custody of a jail when a mob broke in and killed him.

This is murder. It is NOT justified, right, or with excuse.

While the four men were drinking their wine, they heard a noise, a shout to surrender, and bullets flying.

The mob rushed up the stairs, burst open the door and started firing.

We do not know if this mob were believing Christians, as some anti-Christian Mormons have tried to say, or if they were Masons, or angry men whose wives had been seduced. They could have even been some Mormons in the mob.

But they were an unlawful mob with black face and guns.

The four men inside charged to bar the door
While the gunmen stuck their hands
through the opened crack and fired.

The mob outside also shot from the ground.

Hyrum, hit in the face, cried out, "I am a
dead man." When he fell to the floor three
more bullets entered his body.

Joseph, who has a gun smuggled into his
person, stuck it in through the door and
fired. Reports are three struck true - killing
two men, and three rounds misfired.

John Taylor was struck in the leg, with two
more balls entering his left wrist and leg
above the knee. He rolled under the bed for
cover.

Willard Richards, a rotund man, was not
hit.

After seeing his brother was hit, Joseph is
said to have dropped his empty six shooter
and moved to the window where he was
struck in the chest by two bullets, and he
fell to the ground - dead.

Regarding Josephs death, which the LDS
incessantly call a martyrdom, consider the
following:

It was reported that Joseph Smith, on the
way to Carthage Jail, made the comment:

"I am going like a lamb to the slaughter."

This was simply another unconscionable
parallel Joseph - and Mormonism - make to

the Lord Jesus.

It must be noted that lambs do not fire six shooters.

The Lamb of God did not retaliate nor condoned retaliation, when suffering for the cause of Christ.

Joseph was no lamb.

In the recent LDS film played at the Joseph Smith memorial building downtown, the emotionally driven cinematic retelling of the Carthage gun battle conveniently omits Joseph having or shooting a gun.

Understand, Joseph killed two men in his supposed martyrdom.

John Taylor, who was in the room reported:

(QUOTE HERE)

The second aspect to consider was Joseph's moving toward the window. LDS defenders of the faith maintain that Joseph fled to the window in order to heroically and selflessly draw the attention from his

fallen brethren, and sacrifice himself – like unto Jesus.

I believe that if I were concerned with my brethrens safety, I would have pushed them out of the way and screamed “Here I am, Here I am,” and RUSHED the door, not ran from it!

Third, William Morgan, the Mason who was murdered for revealing the secrets of the Masonic order (and whose widow became one of Joseph’s first secret polygamous wives) wrote what a Mason was to do in times of distress.

“The sign is given by raising both hands and arms to the elbows, perpendicularly, one on each side of the head, the elbows forming a square. The words accompanying the this sign – in the case of distress, are:

O Lord, My God! Is there no help for the widows son!”

Well guess what all the reports said Joseph yelled when he went to that window?

“Oh Lord, my God!”

Sound like he was trying to sacrifice himself, or escape death just one more time?

John D Lee wrote:

And in the History of the Church we can read:

About a month after Joseph and Hyrum were killed, the Mormon newspaper Times and Seasons wrote:

READ THE REST

Joseph Smith died on June 27th of 1844 from gunshot wounds and possibly a fall from a second story window.

Today, 163 years later, his spirit continues to thrive in the hearts and minds of Latter-day Saints today.

Whether it be by seeing spirits, questionable business practices, practices like lying for the Lord, or maintaining a charismatic and charming relationship with the world, it all started with Joseph.

In this valley and valleys beyond, people have had their throats slit for failing to obey the commands of the priesthood leaders of their home, young teenage girls have been secretly wed under the auspices of it being God's will, and duplicitous forgeries have led to lies, financial ruin, and death.

Where Latter-day Saints see Joseph's legacy in terms of growing numbers worldwide, I see Joseph alive and well in the hidden corners of Mormonism, in those areas that speak to us explosively, repulsively, and horrifically.

Where the question has been

"How did people ever believe this guy?"

<p>A more important question to me is “How can people believe in this guy today?”</p> <p>Let’s go to the phones.</p> <p>(801) 973-8820 (801) 973-TV20</p> <p>EMAILS</p>	
LORDSWORD	
NEXT WEEK _YES We will be on the air live – so gathers all those	
Pastor in the Pub	

<p>Live! From the “Mecca of Mormonism” - SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH - This is the last live show of Heart of the Matter for 2007.</p> <p>It’s Christmas day and I’m your host . . .</p>	<p>Show 51 Christmas December 25th 2007</p> <p>Shawn McCraney</p>
STEAMING VIDEO ANNOUNCEMENT	
IN THE HOUSE TONIGHT . . .	
<p>NEW FORUM ON THE WEBSITE!</p> <p>www.bornagainmormon.com</p>	
<p>Shout Outs!</p> <p>Gordon and Chris – God bless.</p> <p>Lane</p> <p>Staff at Denny’s on North Temple!</p> <p>Gladys Howell</p> <p>The Robert and Meg Shanks</p> <p>Millie, Ellin, and Kara! Lord’sword faithful all the way from Ogden. We love and appreciate all you do.</p> <p>Dave and Donna B.</p>	

<p>Gayle Crawford and the girls.</p> <p>Kathy-Maggie: I'm proud to be a donkey, my sister.</p> <p>To Scott and Susan Forebush – thank you for everything.</p> <p>And a special shout out this week and our thanks and praise to God as a true seeker of the Lord – Margaret – gave her life to Him on Sunday. We pray for you, our sister. Keep trusting and turning to him.</p>	
<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>	
<p>Well, in most cases, the gifts have been opened and the Christmas meals - by this time of night - have been consumed.</p> <p>Some of you have been abundantly blessed today by visits from family and friends, with laughter and material goods.</p> <p>Maybe some of you have spent the day seemingly alone. Maybe you have had no Christmas celebration of which to speak. Maybe you saw no family, had no celebratory meal, received nor gave any gifts.</p> <p>There are people listening tonight who have had a rough year. Maybe it has been difficult for you to make ends meet financially, physically, emotionally, and/or spiritually this year.</p> <p>Maybe you don't share in the faith, interests, or values of those you love and have therefore been ostracized by them.</p>	

It might be that you are going through the agony of divorce, the issues of being a homosexual, the trials of drug addiction, the degradation of porn addiction.

Some of you may have had your hearts broken this year by someone you love and perhaps there are those who have lost loved ones to tragic death.

I am certain that some of our viewers are under the impression that they have no viable place to turn for help or solace.

And I am sure there are a number of people who might wonder if there is even a God, if Jesus really was born to men, or if hope truly exists in such a difficult and painful world.

On one hand, we have people who have celebrated – and have been treated like – king's today.

To them, Christmas is a sparkling, celebratory almost sensual experience, heightened by gifts, music and pleasures.

On the other end, we have people who see the Christmas season as a mockery of all they don't have, of all that is dark and not right with their lives.

In view of the real reason this holiday is observed, neither perspective is more impressive or valid than the other.

The world is full of faithless, celebrating kings who bask in the twinkling lights and it also has its share of broken hearts filled with despair.

It has always been so - and it will always so be - in this fallen world.

What makes the true difference in either case is the fact of whether a person knows Jesus or not.

Of whether they have come to a living understanding that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son to save it!

Where "Christmas people" might see some semblance of Jesus or spirituality in Christmas trees and tinsel, non-Christmas people see hypocrisy.

But His Truth lies not in tinsel, trees or embittered attitudes.

It lies in Him - Jesus Christ.

Where did Jesus go and the sure hope He brings which persists outside the hype and destitution of December 25th?

(beat)

All around us, for the past two months or so, we have been reminded - *constantly reminded* - that this day was coming.

The efforts at marketing, promotion, and sales have been astounding.

And yet, among the poor and unsatiated AND the rich and overindulged, there exists a hollowness in the day that cannot be subsumed by personal bitterness or ambient felicity.

The sole reason for this is that they do not

<p>obtained, nor do they understand, that which should be the basis and focus of <i>every hour of everyday</i> – Jesus.</p>	
<p>Perhaps there exists no better comparative to present-day Mormonism -and its argument for being Christian - than the present-day expressions of this holiday we call Christmas and its façade of being about Christ.</p> <p>Like Mormonism today, Christmas is well orchestrated, full of sparkle, imagery of what should be, and self-centered expectations – whether from the giving or the receiving end.</p> <p>The right music is played. Baby Jesus never cries, and the shining night stars burn brightly above temple square.</p> <p>Here, in place of merchandise, a way of good living is being sold in place of living water – it’s a successful message, wrapped in bows and offered as a approach that makes bad men good and good men better.</p> <p>Yes, Christmas has it’s nativities, its bearing of gifts - heck, even the name of “Christ” is in the name of the day!</p> <p>But how much of this “stuff” really has to do with the Birth of God our Savior?</p> <p>A token reading here.</p> <p>Three children in bathrobes bearing gifts there?</p> <p>Materialism run amok, leaving, instead of grace and forgiveness, works and indebtedness for the year to come.</p>	

I'm not going to ask why Christmas is so void of any true Christianity today. Nor will I ask how or when it happened – I think this is apparent.

But I will ask why Mormonism embodies these similar disconnects and I'll use Christmas as the model as to illustrate my thesis.

In my hometown in Southern California Sunday morning, my wife attended her LDS ward and listened to a talk given by a stalwart sister in the faith.

In her talk, which was delivered just two days before the supposed celebration of the birth of Jesus, this woman thought it important to recognize Joseph Smith's birthday first.

She did so, commenting on his contributions to the world, reminding everyone there that it was Joseph's birthday, and concluded her praise to the man by reading a glorifying statement about Joseph Smith from none other than Gordon B. Hinckley.

She then sequed into a talk about the birth of "the Savior."

Her actions were of no less effect in diluting the pure mission of Jesus than the local fast-food chain I recently saw who was offering a special deal on "X-Mas fries."

Bleeach.

Things like this make Christmas hollow, my friends. Things like this make Christianity

weak.

On the same Sunday, but here in Utah, I visited a random ward and picked up a program of the day "Christmas Choir Program."

There, two days before the celebration of the birth of Jesus, what song did the choir choose to add to their repertoire of numbers?

Joseph Smith's First Prayer! A hymn all about the glorious work Joseph brought forth to the world.

But I can't place the blame on this LDS defender of the faith or the ward choir director.

They are merely echoing what LDS leaders, periodicals, and doctrines have long endorsed - diluting the message and mission of Jesus with Joseph.

"Oh," you may say, "that is a low blow, Mr. McCraney. You know very well that the Latter-day Saints rejoice in the celebration of Christmas, in the birth of the Savior, and of the atonement.

This may be so.

But what is also true is the fact that the LDS deliberately raise Joseph the man up in the least as a side kick to Jesus, and in the most, as another God to whom all people we be accountable.

Don't believe it?

Listen on, my friends.

For starters, the Bible teaches that Jesus Christ was born in the “fullness of time” – meaning He was born just at the right time to bring forth the fullness of the everlasting gospel.

This was during the pax Romana – where the world was literally prepared for His message to reach out and save those that believed.

Galatians 4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law.

Did you hear that phrase? “When the FULNESS of the time was come.”

Eph 1:10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

But Joseph – and the Church leaders who have followed and continue to endorse him – claim HE came in the fullness of times, that HE ushered in the final dispensation, and that Jesus merely arrived in the *meridian of time*.

Are we celebrating Christmas here or are we celebrating Smithmas?

In effect, Joseph Smith and LDS leaders today rob the Lord Jesus Christ of His ministry by boldly suggesting that what He did was NOT enough!

That God had to send ANOTHER to really complete the work!

In the 1988 Melchizedek Priesthood guide, page 142, Apostle George Q.

States:

Want more?

But this isn't all.

Back in 1997, when present-day LDS prophet and president Gordon B. Hinckley was in office, he said to the Latter-day Saints in his Ensign Christmas message:

Not too many months ago, a Latter-day Saint in Springville, Utah, wrote a provocative new book where he suggests that the blood-line of Jesus runs through Church founder Joseph Smith.

And while it could be said that this is merely the unauthorized work of a misguided member, the author supports his theory by quoting LDS prophet Brigham Young, who said:

All of us – whether believers in Jesus or not – have witnessed the celebration of His birth lose significance with each passing year, overcome, as it were, by bling – the things of this world.

Prior to being a Christian, in my younger years as a Mormon, I loved Christmas. It embodied all the natural feelings I had for the religion I claimed to be “true.”

Once I came to know Him – to understand His blood, my sin, and who He really was – Christmas became less and less of a celebration, and more of an affront to truth. I could say nothing less of Mormonism.

[illegible]

<p>2 minutes left</p> <p>CONCLUSION:</p> <p>INVITE YOU ALL TO LORDSWORD</p> <p>Start your year off right.</p>	
<p>No Pastor in the Pub tonight but we'll be back next week – same time, same place – after the show.</p>	<p>GRAPHIC:</p> <p>No Pastor in the Pub tonight!</p>

<p>LIVE!</p> <p>From the Mecca of Mormonism SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH This is Heart of the Matter . . .</p>	<p>Show 1 Counterfeits January 1st 2008</p> <p>. . . and I'm your host, Shawn McCraney.</p> <p>Happy New Year – or whatever.</p>
LIVE STREAMING VIDEO	
IN-THE-HOUSE TONIGHT	
<p>This year of 2008 is going to be the year where the HEART OF THE MATTER shout-outs end.</p> <p>If this offends you I do apologize.</p> <p>It is getting to the point that I am missing people I love and care about - people who deserved the blessed title of “shout-outtedness.”</p> <p>So let me just say, that if you watch the show, or pray for us, or send us information, or help support us financially, or have a birthday – we love and appreciate you, and we shout out to God for you daily.</p>	
<p>I Was A Born-Again Mormon</p> <p>This is the thing that started it all.</p> <p>You can buy it at</p>	

Sam Wellers

Utah Lighthouse Ministry, right
across from the ball field.

Christian Gift and Bible in Sandy
CCSLC bookstore

Christ Evangelical in Orem

Gift of Grace in Springville

Oasis books in Logan

Listen, let me say something here
about www.utlm.org

This is the place online to check
your facts about church history.

This is the place to learn the truth
about Mormonism.

The LDS church today is working
very hard to redirect the media,
internet traffic, and inquiring
minds to their own website so they
can tell the world what they
believe.

“Well,” you may say, “that seems
only fair and right, Shawn. It’s
their church, they should be the
first people you go to to learn
about their religion.

When you want to learn about a
Ford, ya go to a Ford dealership,
don’t ya? Would you go to a
Chevy dealer to learn about a
Ford?”

(beat) Yes.

Now, there are people and places
we do go to directly to hear their
side of the story. If an institution

	<p>were known to be true, honest and forthright, yes, we go to them.</p> <p>But the LDS Church has not passed this litmus test – presently or historically.</p> <p>We all have to agree that there are organizations where you will get the straight shot by going to outside sources.</p> <p>The mafia.</p> <p>Governments – especially despotic governments – they’re going to lie and cover-up.</p> <p>Sinister Corporations often have things to hide lie.</p> <p>This is why there are investigative reporters and third party policing groups.</p> <p>Now “maybe” the LDS Church is doing better in this area of late. But in my opinion, they are worse.</p> <p>It used to be they openly and proudly admitted their practices, beliefs, and desires.</p> <p>Now they’ve embraced the worst of all public stances – Orwellian doublespeak.</p> <p>Anyway . . . go to www.UTLM.org</p> <p>I mean, we love our site to, but for information that can be trusted,</p>
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	UTLM.org is the place.
<p>Next Week . . . right here in Salt Lake City . . . we are going to hold our January “Traveling Pastor” get together.</p> <p>When: Monday Night, January 7th Where: Downtown SLC at the Denny’s on 5th South and 250 West. Time: 6-8pm What: Fellowship, meet, eat, and greet.</p> <p>Then we are going to go to an “undisclosed location” and have our open, non- denominational baptism for any and all who want to publicly accept Jesus as Lord and Savior of their lives.</p> <p>(Repeat details)</p> <p>Also, BOISE IDAHO, we’re coming to your neck of the woods.</p> <p>So look for details on February’s Traveling Pastor February 3rd and 4th in the greater Boise area.</p> <p>Go to www.bornagainmormon.com</p>	
<p>On the Romney Trail:</p> <p>Jill H. sent this article which was really interesting.</p> <p>(summarize article)</p> <p>On a similar note, thanks to internet investigator John M., there was an interesting article in the SLTribune everyone should read.</p>	

<p>We have been adamant that if Romney were elected President, it would be Mormonism that would in the end win and rule.</p> <p>(Summarize article)</p>	
PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER	
<p>Imagine for a minute that you are Satan, the dark side, a being who seeks 24/7 to lead human beings – the souls God has created – to an eternity of misery.</p> <p>Over time, you are going to come up with some strategies.</p> <p>After the fall, Satan hit Adam and Eve's first born son with a grand sin – cold blooded murder.</p> <p>Not much panache. Not much by way of strategy. Not too creative. Just plain old anger, jealousy and hateful rage.</p> <p>With time and experience, the most cunning of all devious crafters – develops a plethora of new approaches to manipulate and ultimately capture the hearts of men.</p> <p>Idolatry started off as a staple of wooden figures and has blossomed today into all sorts of strange gods – living, breathing, dead and inert.</p> <p>Lust? Pretty natural stuff. But he's gotten us to lust after incomprehensible things in this day and age.</p>	

Then, with the so-called progress of civilization - came some of "darkness's" best works - His counterfeits - subtly crafted methods which bear the appearance of truth and light but are nothing but a valueless, hollow outward representation of the real thing.

Makes sense though, doesn't it?

I mean, if you were the most wiley, cunning, truth-twister in the universe wouldn't it make sense that in the face of a so-called "advancing civilization" you would try and produce something that most closely resembles God's plan but in reality is an affront to it?

Wouldn't you strive to develop a system of beliefs that appear holy and good and right which are in fact antithetical to God's ways?

That would be ingenious. And it is exactly what the darkness has done.

In the manual that exposes counterfeits and counterfeiters - the Bible - there are two terms that describe "knowing."

Speaking of SALVATION in John 17:3 Jesus said:

*"And this is life eternal, that they might **know** thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."*

The word "know" here (that they might know thee) is the Greek word Ginosko. And it refers to the salvation experience.

Salvation is not merely a mental

understanding, nor is it limited to an emotional experience, it is a knowing experience.

Now we've talked before about knowing on this show and I've said that it can only be attributed to knowing truth with a capital T which is Jesus . . . who is the Truth with a capital T.

Meaning, we can only say we truly know what is true. And Jesus is the only True which we can know.

But there is another word that is used in the Greek and it describes the freedom, the liberty, the absolute indescribable deep relationship believers can have with God - and that word is *epignosis*.

It is knowledge above and beyond the knowing that comes through salvation.

Epignosis describes our deep rooted understanding of God.

It is not a description of salvation, and epignosis comes only through understanding God through the study of His Word.

Writing to people who have already been saved, Peter and Paul say, using this hyperbolic word epignosis:

Eph 1:16-18 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of

his inheritance in the saints"

2nd Peter 1:2 *Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord*

Remember, the apostles here are speaking to people who have been saved, and they use the word *epignosis* to describe that deeper relationship that brings peace, joy, and comfort which lesser instructed believers in the word have yet to come to possess.

Remember that phrase "*that lesser instructed believers in the word have to come possess.*"

This peace, joy, rest, and assurance culminates in one revolutionary word:

FREEDOM.

Jesus words, "And you shall KNOW the TRUTH and the TRUTH shall set you free" were not in vain.

Freedom in Christ.

You see, the doctrines taught by Jesus and those presented in the Word always point and lead to one thing - liberty, freedom, and peace in CHRIST.

Not in the world.
Not in religion.
Not in a man or a woman.

Not in Joseph.
Not in Gordon.
Not in your pastor.
Not in Shawn McCraney.

In Jesus Christ.

And the manual teaches it.

Believers study the manual.

They experience more freedom and peace.
And once they understand the manual (and here's the tie in to our discussion tonight) they can spot a counterfeit to this gift of epignosis a mile down the road.

Why do you suppose the informed Christian world at large, the Bible scholar, Jesus loving, peace-filled bible readers have always called Mormonism a cult?

Mormons will comically tell you it's because they are jealous of the LDS's rapid growth and success.

Manual readers know that true Christianity will never be a world success.

The reason the manual reader have always resisted Mormonism is because they've been freed and see the counterfeit.

How? What is the core issue that tips us off?

The loss of peace and whole trust in Christ.
The loss of peaceful liberty in Him alone.

Listen:

2nd Corinthians 3:17 *Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*

Galatians 5:13 ¶ *For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.*

In a prophetic utterance of Jesus, the prophet Isaiah said:

Isaiah 61:1 ¶ *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.*

Knowledge of God – epignosis – produces both release and total reliance in a life of a believer. Release from the bondage of sin, institutional rule, sects, cults, philosophies, diets, drugs – you name it and total reliance upon Him and Him alone.

The more studied you are in the Word of God, and all the revelatory declarations He gives us from His mouth to our heart, the more freedom you possess AND . . . AND . . . and the better ability you have at discerning a counterfeit system when it comes down the pike.

Now counterfeiting is truly a bane on society. It is a pathetic, ugly, leech.

In March of this year, the US Chamber of Commerce revealed the findings of a study where they tracked three product-groups that originate from Brazil

Clothing
Sports footwear and toys

This study revealed that counterfeiting of these products alone deprived Brazil of 9.3 billion dollars of tax revenues in 2006 alone.

Think about your own work and business.

How would you feel if you labored

endlessly to create a liberating product – a cure for a disease, a new dress, a piece of art - and some counterfeiter knocks it off, mass produces it, and sells it to the yearning public in an inferior state.

Imagine that you dealt in historical documents and some fraud sold you a counterfeit.

Now imagine – *just imagine* – how God feels about people and systems that have counterfeited and pirated His system, and are pushing it out to the masses as the real McCoy.

And their system does the opposite of His – it traps, and ensnares, and imprisons the creations He sent His son to free!

Watch out.

When it comes to the unadulterated message of Christianity, the general rule of thumb is this:

Liberals tend to diminish from the original and the cults tend to add to it.

Liberals tend to say

“Oh, Jesus, he was a good man. But all religions are good.”

“The Bible. It has some good advice. But so does the Koran, and the this, and the that . . . in fact, my mystic fume healer Star told me yesterday that she saw me in her tapioca skin softener.”

Whatever.

But the cults (and I usually don't use that term but am tonight for our discussion purposes), they generally add to their counterfeit.

With them, the Biblical message of Jesus is NEVER enough.

What do the Jehovah's Witnesses say of Jesus?

Scientologists?

Christian Scientists?

What does the Mormon doctrines say of Him?

He is never enough.

Last Sunday, in a ward in Southern California, a member of a Bishopric came into the primary (that's where the Children are kept) and said the following:

“ “

There is always more.

But Mormonism is unique because they are not satisfied with producing their own counterfeit system to Jesus with other books, other doctrines, and other practices, they have had the audacity to take the original manual and totally mind-screw their members on what it says!

SO this year, instead of continuing on with Church history, we are going to take the main biblical verses the LDS use to support

their errant doctrines and teach you how badly they have been misapplied.

I received an email just last week from one Michael McVey, an ardent defender of the Mormon faith and extreme critic of me and our ministry.

He writes:

(READ IT)

We're going to spend the year addressing these horribly errant teachings the LDS have heaped upon their members and hopefully help to you speak with your LDS family and friends, and hopefully help our LDS listeners understand the manual that always leads to freedom.

If you have some verses that you have always heard and don't understand that the LDS use, please forward them to

shawn@bornagainmormon.com

We will be using the basic verses the LDS missionaries use in their discussions, including those that discuss

The ontology of God
War in heaven
Pre-existence
Creatio ex nihilo
The two scrolls in Ezekial
Satan
Virgin birth
Atonement in the garden
The Cross
Apostasy
Bible as the Word of God
Apostolic succession
Prophets

<p> Revelation Temples Jerusalem Joseph Smith in the Bible Polygamy Blood atonement Baptism Laying on of hands Gift of the Holy Ghost Priesthood authority Other books of Scripture The Church The Body of Christ Worshipping Jesus Grace Faith Works Jesus as God And on and on. We live in a world of counterfeits. Everything has its frauds and fakes. The Bible can be trusted as the as the manual to know the differences. The Bible points to, leads to, testifies of Jesus. It does not teach or point to Joseph too. The Bible is about the Jews, not the Mormons. The Bible teaches the Gospel of Jesus Christ, not Mormonism. It is of and from the old world and provides us clear understanding on issues men have twisted and contorted to meet </p>	
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<p>their needs.</p> <p>Stay tuned.</p> <p>Alright, let's go to the phones:</p> <p>(801) 973-8820 (801) 973- TV20</p> <p>Please, first time callers, have a question ready, and turn down your television sets.</p> <p>Also, we welcome any and all LDS callers – unless you have been calling and making yourself a nuisance.</p> <p>You know who you are.</p> <p>EMAILS?</p>	
LORD'SWORD	
<p>NEXT WEEK</p> <p>MONDAY NIGHT</p>	
<p>Tonight, we meet again for our regular Pastor in the Pub.</p>	
<p>We'll see you next week here on Heart of the Matter (wiggle finger)</p>	

<p>LIVE! From the Mecca of Mormonism- -# SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH! - This is Heart of the Matter . . .</p>	<p>Show 2 The Word January 8th 2008</p> <p>. . . and I'm Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>Live Streaming Video Announcement</p>	
<p>"In-the-House" Tonight</p>	
<p>Last night we had our monthly TRAVELING PASTOR!</p> <p>Right here in downtown Salt Lake City At Denny's on 5th South and 250 West</p> <p>The turn out was rather small compared to other traveling pastor meetings, but we had a wonderful baptism experience following at the Adventure Church right across the street from Liberty park.</p> <p>We had a slight miscommunication on the font so long story short, the water was freezing - I mean winter river freezing.</p> <p>Enjoy this.</p> <p>Congrats to Jed and Dean who publicly proclaimed their faith in the Lord last night and nearly froze to death in the process.</p> <p>We love you.</p> <p>Remember, coming up in February, on</p>	<p>(Video Clip?)</p>

<p>Sunday evening February 3rd and Monday Evening February 4th, we're going to be in BOISE, IDAHO, meeting our fans and foes who tune into the show on KLCP TV 19!</p> <p>On February 3rd, from 3pm to 5pm, we are going to be holding an open house at their local station KCLP in Nampa and then on Monday the 4th we'll be meeting at the Denny's from 6 to 8 pm for our Traveling Pastor in the Pub.</p> <p>Stay tuned for more information.</p> <p>Go to www.bornagainmormon.com for more info like the location and times of planned events.</p>	
<p>You know, as I travel about I have a unique opportunity to observe lots of people.</p> <p>I listen to their conversations and hear their lips convey what's on their hearts.</p> <p>I watch body language, facial expressions, and am able to dialogue with a variety of people on the subject of religion, God, and Jesus - especially LDS people.</p> <p>At the Long Beach airport last week three young LDS men came up and asked if they could speak with me as we waited for plane.</p> <p>So often in these impromptu meetings and emails, members of the Church think they have a perspective that I've never considered in my forty years as an active faithful teaching high priest.</p> <p>That they have questions I've never heard as a Christian, or possess an angle I missed in my years hosting the show.</p>	

<p>Usually, their intentions are good. Usually, they are considerate people. I like the Mormons.</p> <p>But you have to understand something: Your questions and delivery are pretty much cookie cutter and very much from the same hymnal.</p> <p>You may not even realize it, but the arguments you use have been spoon-fed to you since you were an attentive member.</p> <p>I see many LDS people who are dedicated to family – parents and grandparents headed to Disneyland, generations wishing a missionary off or welcoming them home.</p> <p>They have a strong culture, a culture based on happiness, a culture based on family, food, and fun.</p> <p>But Jesus most often than not a sub-topic, not the theme.</p> <p>An branch, not the trunk.</p> <p>A chapter, not the book.</p> <p>This is the central message of our ministry – for you as a Latter-day Saint to have Him on your lips, in your every step, and by your side at Disneyland.</p> <p>Not “the prophet.” Not “the Church.”</p> <p>Jesus Christ.</p>	
<p>Recent interesting information:</p>	

<p>Listen, if in the past six months you have come to see the light relative to Mormonism and have come to find the Lord, we really need to hear from you.</p> <p>You communication will be private.</p> <p>Email me at Shawn@bornagainmormon.com as I will get in touch with you thereafter for a private conversation.</p>	
PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER	

What Joseph Smith was everything history paints him to be, what do you suppose was the greatest crime he committed against biblical Christianity and the members of the LDS Church?

Was it his stating that God was once a man or that men may become God's?

Was it that the teaching that Jesus was a created being, or his claims he translated God's Word from golden plates buried in a hill by his house?

Maybe it was polygamy, temple rites and rituals, or his suggesting he had more to boast of than even Jesus Christ?

You pick.

But from page 210 of "I was a Born-Again Mormon," allow me to answer my own question by quoting from . . . my own book (sorry - I usually don't do this)

QUOTE

"The greatest disservice Joseph Smith did to members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - past, present, and future - was not claiming that he saw God, not in publishing the Book of Mormon, and not erecting temples influenced by Freemasonry. Right or wrong, all of those acts can be written off as a young man's attempts to draw people closer to God, to save them from a Christian faith he deemed corrupt, and to help unify the community and family around him. Rather his most damaging act was his subtle attack on the authority and authenticity of the Bible. This act has led hundreds of thousands of innocent people to distrust and even

mock the holy Word of God. In spite of Joseph Smith's best intentions, I see him as having committed a grave spiritual and ecclesiastical crime."

There seems to be three main perspectives a person can have relative to the Bible.

The first is that it is full of errant doctrines, mistranslations, purposeful deceptions, and the philosophies of Man.

A second perspective could be that the Bible is erroneous, but it is a good piece of literature and won't do too much damage if taken with a grain of salt and not viewed with too much devotion.

If either of these perspectives are the case, then Mormonism, Islam, and every self-proclaimed prophet to ever come down the pike has the right to question it, add to it, take from it, and challenge it.

If this is the case, then extra-biblical books like the Koran, the D&C, the Book of Mormon, and the New World Translation are just great! The more "revelations" the better.

If this is the case we could all agree or disagree that Jesus was a good teacher, the Jewish prophets had some good advice for living, and the people who follow it are often better citizens.

But there is a third perspective I want to address tonight - that is that the Bible is in fact trustworthy and reliable as the Word of God.

And if this is the case, then no extra books are needed, continued revelation no matter how charismatic the prophet is is unnecessary, and the Word is sufficient to lead all men and women to salvation.

Tonight, I hope to help you choose to embrace the Bible as reliable, and to help teach you a few things you can use when Latter-day Saints claim it is not enough.

Last week, I said a general rule for the Gospel of Jesus Christ was that the liberals tend to take away from it with the “Jesus was a good guy argument” and the cults tend to add to it with the “Jesus was good, but you also need what I’m selling.”

Let me add an addendum to this thought:

When it comes to the Bible both liberals and cultists tend to both diminish its import, AND rewrite its meanings.

The Bible defends itself against such attack.

Let’s take a minute and examine what it says about itself:

(And I hope you will take some notes as to the references here and mark your Bible for use against those who insist on demeaning it).

First of all, the Word of the Lord has been around a long, long time and it says that it will last forever.

Palms 119:89 For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withereth, the flower

fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

Jesus said in Matthew 24:35

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

Peter, one of the Lord's Apostles wrote in 1st Peter 1:25

But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

Do you know what God Himself said about His Words?

He said that they are held in higher esteem than even . . . His name

Listen:

Psalms 138:2

I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

What does the Bible say the Word of God is and what does it promise that it will do?

It says it is "**Inspired**"

2nd Timothy 3:16

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2nd Peter 1:21

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

That it “**Furnishes Light**”

Jeremiah 23:29 says that the Word of God is a *crushing hammer*.

Ephesians 6:17 says “*the sword of the Spirit is the word of God*”

And Hebrews 4:12 says

Hebrews 4:12 *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

Interestingly, the Bible says that the Word of God “Purifies Life”

Psalms 19:9

John 15:3

John 17:17

Ephesians 5:26

And “authenticate the Divinity of Jesus”

John 20:31

Now I am going to make a statement here which is more and more being debated from the Mormon defenders of the faith but within the general ranks of the LDS, the Bible is not considered an equal to their other three books of canon.

Listen to a few quotes that have come from LDS leaders mouths regarding the Bible.

The Bible has always been considered an unreliable source for all of God’s truth.

We have time and time again read on this

show very demeaning quotes past LDS leaders have made regarding the Bible, and all you need to do if you think I am wrong and the LDS embrace the Bible like you do is to invite the missionaries over to your home and start quoting the Bible in refutation to their Mormon doctrines.

You'll hear the general LDS attitude toward the Bible first hand.

So, in light of what the Bible says of God's word, and what predominant LDS view of the Bible, I have some questions:

Ready:

Why did Jesus quote from a Bible (the O.T.) which was older to Him in many respects than the N.T is to us?

Why would He trust the "translations" as reliable enough, but Mormon's can't?

Huh?

Huh?

Huh?

Every time Satan asks Him a question when He was being tempted, Jesus said, It is written . . . and then He quoted scripture. He didn't say, "It is written, but the translation might be wrong, Satan!" He said IT IS WRITTEN.

And this brings me to my second question:

Why did God have men write if He wasn't able to bring their writings forth in a reliable and trustworthy way?

What does Romans 15:4 say? LISTEN!

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."

And in 1st John 5:13, John the Beloved wrote this

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

Which brings me to another question.

Is the God of all things, the being who controls and balances and creates the universes, the being who manages the sub-atomic levels of life, the being who was, and is, and is to come – could not bring forth His Word in a form that is trustworthy to us today?

To deny, alter, question and demean His Word is to demean Him!

Which brings me to a final question:

What does the Bible say about the Words Jesus spoke?

John 6:63

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

If the WORDS that He spoke are life, how were WE supposed to hear them?

John 14:23-24

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love

me, he **will keep my words**: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

AGAIN, How can we keep His words – HIS WORDS GIVEN THERE IN HIS LIFE – if they couldn't, wouldn't didn't come to us in a reliable form?

1st John 2:3

And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

How can we keep His commandments if we don't know them?

And finally,

Ro 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Why would a person or group want you to mistrust or question the Bible?

Why?

Because if they can get a searching person to

mistrust God's word, they can step in and get them to trust their words.

And the warnings for the beguiling words or men and women are all throughout the Bible.

Joseph used several approaches to get people to mistrust the Bible.

He had the Book of Mormon writers discount its validity.

He said he received revelation straight from Heaven, which supplants the Bible in Mormon doctrine.

Add in two more books he called scripture and you have got a people who never come to a saving knowledge of the truth.

And then you can tie them all up in doing things YOU want them to do.

We're going to open up the phones now:

(801) 973-tv20

Mormonism faces a paradoxical situation when it comes to the Bible. On the one hand, they have long thrown its trustworthiness into question, causing most of their members to instead rely more on the words of Joseph Smith, and yet at the same time they use some of the most esoteric passages in the Bible to support some of their most insane doctrines.

It's sort of like walking into a reputable doctors office and calling him a fraud and then asking him his advice on a medical condition.

Typical.	
Almost everyone who has ever heard more	

<p>than just a few Bible teachings is familiar with a parable Jesus tells which is known as the Parable of the Sower.</p> <p>It's a simple but power packed tale of a Sower – or planter, who tosses seed onto various types of ground.</p> <p>Stony ground. Shallow ground. Ground that is quickly engulfed in thorns, and on good soil.</p> <p>After hearing this parable, the disciples ask the Lord to explain it.</p> <p>And the Lord begins to do so by stating matter of fact:</p> <p>“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.”</p>	
<p>There will be no – I repeat, no Pastor in the Pub tonight due to our in-town event last night at the downtown Denny's</p>	
<p>And listen, we hope - if you have not found a church you feel comfortable attending - we truly hope you'll drag yourself down to either The Gateway Theaters at 9:15 in the morning</p> <p>OR</p> <p>to the University of Utah by 7:00 in the evening and join us at LORD'SWORD.</p> <p>It's one hour. It's simple. It's open to all. And I promise, you'll learn.</p>	

See you next week . . . here on Heart of the Matter.	
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<p>LIVE! From the Mecca of Mormonism! - SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH -</p> <p>This is . . . HEART OF THE MATTER!</p>	<p>Show 3 Pre-existence January 15th 2008</p> <p>And I'm Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>"Live Streaming Video from anywhere in the world!"</p>	
<p>Hey Boise Idaho viewers!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We're coming out to your neck of the woods! • February 3rd and 4th – that's a Sunday and a Monday. • On Sunday, February 3rd, we'll be at the KCLP open house in Nampa. <p>Address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Then on Monday, February 4th, we'll be at the Denny's in Nampa Idaho, which is located at: <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <p>We'll be there from 6pm to 8pm.</p> <p>So come on out and join us – Christians, fans of the show, LDS – I'd love to meet you face to face.</p>
<p>I'd like to take a minute and thank all of you who support our ministry.</p>	

<p>So many of you volunteer time and talents, offer up prayers on our behalf, send us pertinent articles, and support us financially.</p> <p>We thank you from the bottom of our heart for anything and everything you do to help us reach people – primarily LDS people – with the life-changing message of a relationship with Jesus over an allegiance to a religion.</p>	
<p>LORD'SWORD</p>	
<p>On a recent show we had a caller ask me to reveal my secret temple name. This is a name that LDS temple goers receive and are placed under oaths and obligations to never reveal.</p> <p>Men know their wife's secret name as they are the ones who lead her through the veil at their wedding, but the wife does not know the husbands.</p> <p>The caller said something to the effect that if I was so against the Church I should have no problem revealing my secret temple name. Then he asked me what it was.</p> <p>I've received a number of emails on my response, some not fully understanding my reticence to say the name on the air and some even believing that I was afraid to do it because I either "still believe in the church" or I am afraid of what will "happen" to me if I did.</p> <p>Time for another clarification.</p>	

<p>I have no fear of anyone or anything in or from the LDS Church.</p> <p>I am not afraid to reveal my secret name to anyone within the confines of decorum.</p> <p>The callers request that I reveal my name on the show was a lose- lose proposition for our ministry – and he knew it.</p> <p>If I revealed my name, I would might appease the curiosity of a number of disaffected members and make most of the Christian viewers rejoice but I would at the same time have insulted the audience we seek to primarily engage – searching Latter-day Saints.</p> <p>Even the most jaded LDS, because of temple indoctrination, have trouble speaking of the things they promised they would not speak about.</p> <p>My sharing this name on the air would have been akin to spitting on the flag in front of a Marine, wearing a birka as a Halloween costume, or - as I said on the show – pulling a yamaka off my head and tearing it up.</p> <p>I hope this clears the issue up.</p>	
<p>When people grow up believing whole-heartedly in a religion or idea, and somebody they know or maybe even appreciate turns from that religion or idea, those believing people often resort to conjuring up some <i>reason</i> to justify the person who has</p>	

left.

In their mind, it couldn't be the institution or their ideology, so therefore, it has to be the person or a circumstance that led the person to leave.

Weekly, I receive emails from well intentioned LDS people telling me they are sure I had been offended by somebody as a member, or that I was bitter, or angry, or hiding some diabolical sins, and this is my reason for leaving the Church AND for attacking it as I do.

Lately, there is a rumor afoot that I was never really LDS, because if I had been, I never could have left it.

There has been claims that I never held the positions I've claimed to hold nor was I ever able to really understand Mormonism because of my secret sinful activities.

All of these things are simply coping mechanisms for people who seek to believe in the Church in light of my criticisms of it.

Listen, I was an active, believing LDS member of the Church.

And where I doubted, I strived to believe.

I did not leave because I was offended by a member or members.

I was not frustrated due to lack of leadership roles.

<p>I left Mormonism for three specific reasons:</p> <p>First, I left Mormonism because I was a sinner, and realized that no matter what I did or tried, I could not be reconciled to God through the demands, doctrines, or practices of Mormonism.</p> <p>Secondly, I left Mormonism because I came to understand its doctrines – and how “anti” the biblical gospel of Jesus Christ they were.</p> <p>Finally, and this is most important, I left Mormonism because I came to have a living relationship with God through His Son, which opened my eyes, freed my soul, and gave me new life.</p> <p>In summary, I left Mormonism – and call it on the carpet – because I discovered Jesus.</p> <p>Pure and simple.</p>	
PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER	
	<p>It is vitally important in the search for God that we make a concerted effort to separate and distinguish between truth and error, facts and fables, doctrines of Jesus Christ and the imaginations of men.</p> <p>Of fables, Paul warns in 2nd Timothy</p>

2nd Timothy 4:3-4 *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*

Titus 1:14 *Don't give heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.*

The heathen religions have always abounded with fictions and fables.

Even the Jewish teachers were reknown for the number of fables which they had introduced into their beliefs.

This too, caused Paul to write:

Speaking to the faithful Christians of his day, the apostle Peter wrote prior to his death:

2nd Peter 1:16 ¶ *For we have not followed cunningly devised fables when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.*

Cunningly devised fables can sprout, take root, and flourish in a body of believers quickly.

They often make sense – sometimes they are even inviting than the truths of the Word – which have always been considered foolishness to the wise of the world.

The ONLY effective deterrent to controlling and eliminating fables is an effective and liberal understanding of

<p>Fables, myths and fairytales are often presented to entertain and tantalize the undisciplined mind.</p> <p>Sometimes fables are created to help people cope with the brutalities of the truth.</p> <p>(Story of getting my tonsils out)</p> <p>When I was eight or nine years old I was scheduled to have my tonsils out</p> <p>Instead of telling me the doctor goes down my throat with a pair of razor sharp scissors or a scalpel to cut the things out of the sides of my throat, she created a fable as a means to help me cope with the event and provide peace and assurance.</p> <p>Maybe - maybe - some myth-making is acceptable when speaking to children about uncomfortable event or situation.</p> <p>Storks, Santa's, and tooth-fairies are something we all outgrow, but when it comes to God and His Word there is nothing more pathetic than grown men and women who would rather</p>	<p>the Word of God.</p> <p>Correctly and contextually understood, the Word exposes fables and the commandments of men.</p> <p>The farther away a person walks from the Word, the closer they are to embracing fables.</p>
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believe in a lie to comfort them than face the hard Truths of God.

Two biblical facts Joseph Smith found untenable and worthy of revision were the idea that human existence begins in the womb and that we all begin life in this fallen world as creatures.

The idea that God formed us from the dust of the earth and breathed the *beginning of life* into human beings was preposterous to Joseph . . . and borrowing from heretical Greek philosophy, he gave the Mormons a fable called pre-existence.

Boyd K Packer, one of the LDS twelve apostles said:

"The idea that mortal birth is the beginning is preposterous. There is no way to explain life if you believe that."

Hence, the fable.

A second biblical fact Joseph disliked was the idea that all human beings – at birth – are merely God's creatures – similar to animals but with opposable thumbs and an ability to reason; and that it is only through faith on His Son that any and every human creature becomes a child of God.

In the face of this biblical teaching, Joseph taught that we are born children of God, rightful heirs to Him and His throne – if we earn it.

Supporting this fable, stories, paintings, and songs have been

<p>composed within Mormonism.</p> <p>Plan of Salvation charts are drawn to teach little children about their pre-existent state as children of Heavenly Father and Heavenly Mother.</p> <p>One of the most beloved LDS hymns stands in direct opposition to biblical truth.</p> <p>Where a biblical song might say</p> <p><i>I am a creature of God Sinful, dumb and wild And in the state I will remain Till I become His child . . .</i></p> <p>The LDS sing -</p> <p><i>I am a child of God. And He has sent me here. Has given me an earthly home. With parents kind and dear.</i></p> <p><i>Lead me, guide me, walk beside me Help me find the way. Teach me all that I MUST DO To live with him one day.</i></p>	<p>This fable of a pre-existence is so forcefully and repetitively presented to the LDS that people who leave Mormonism typically have the most difficult time letting it go.</p> <p>Admittedly, when it is placed before you as part of a grand fairytale-ish theme, the idea makes some sense to the carnal mind.</p> <p>Who wouldn't want to believe that they have existed forever as spirits, with Jesus as their spiritual brother in the life</p>
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	<p>before?</p> <p>Who wouldn't want to embrace as truth this fictional heavenly heritage?</p> <p>Histories can play a powerful role in establishing a person in life, in giving them a world view, and in grounding them with purpose.</p> <p>STORY OF MARK (in the SOM) . . .</p> <p>Grew up hearing stories of his families ties to French aristocracy.</p> <p>Castles, valour, wealth and power were his heritage.</p> <p>Then one day in his early twenties he learned that he was adopted. And that his parents were actually some messed up people from Chicago.</p> <p>The fairy tale died for Mark, and he was left without a history, without moorings, and without a name.</p> <p>(beat)</p> <p>The beautiful thing was this was exactly where he needed to be because after a season of rebellion, Mark came to know the Lord, and His real Father through adoption by faith.</p> <p>When I was a teenager, an LDS man wrote a play called Saturday's Warrior.</p> <p>It was based entirely on the make-believe fable of the LDS plan of salvation.</p> <p>It was creative, musical, and reassured</p>
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	<p>everyone who saw it that they did, in fact, come from this mythical pre-existent place.</p> <p>The Osmond's produced an album one year called The Plan (through Kolob records, by the way.)</p> <p>I remember to this day the first line of one of the first songs:</p> <p>"Before the beginning We were winning . . ."</p> <p>Lines that support the notion that we came from a place before this life where we lived with our heavenly parents, then came to earth as their children.</p> <p>Read Quotes from page 66 on pre-existence)</p> <p>Dallin Oaks</p> <p>Encyclopedia of Mormonism</p>
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	<p>George Q. Cannon</p> <p>Bruce R. McConkie</p>
<p>There are four or five main passages – literally interpreted and selectively chosen from the body of the Word – which the LDS and their missionaries use to “prove” that the fable of a pre-existence is true.</p> <p>Job 38:7 Ecclesiastes 12:7 Romans 8:16 John 9:2-16 Jeremiah 1:5</p> <p>Let’s take these one by one and address them.</p>	
<p>Job 38:4-7</p> <p><i>Job 38:4 ¶ Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.</i></p> <p><i>5. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?</i></p>	<p>When the entire drama and trial of Job is nearing its conclusion, God steps in and speaks with Job, asking him some probing questions.</p> <p>Let’s read</p>

<p>6 <i>Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;</i></p> <p>7 <i>When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?</i></p>	<p>(explain LDS view)</p>
	<p>The Lord asks Job where he was when all this happened.</p> <p>Meaning, Job, you weren't even around!</p> <p>Therefore, the morning stars and all the sons of God must refer to angelic creations and the hosts of heaven which were along the first order of God's creations, but were not necessarily His best.</p> <p>The Chaldee version of Job reads "All the troops of angels" instead of the Sons of God.</p> <p>When Genesis 1:1 read : "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" we do not know what the heavens included, but we do know, relative to the rest of the Word, that MAN was not there.</p>
<p>Ecclesiastes 12:7 says:</p> <p><i>Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.</i></p>	<p>You see, the LDS missionaries will say to the unsuspecting and untrained, "<i>the Bible even says the spirit will return to God who gave it.</i>"</p> <p>"Whoa," the investigator says, "I must have existed in the spirit world before this life."</p>

	<p>Looking back to Genesis, which is where Christians gain their understanding of where men and women originated, we know that God breathed into Adam, and by and through this breath of God, Adam – and the rest of humanity – became living souls.</p> <p>This breath, this HARUACH in the Hebrew, was from God and was God's.</p> <p>This breath or spirit is another way human beings are differentiated from animals.</p> <p>Animals are bi-partite – they have a soul and a body.</p> <p>But human beings are tri-partite – three in one – body, soul, and spirit - and associate with God through the spirit God breathed into them at the start.</p> <p><i>Zechariah 12:1 The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.</i></p> <p><i>And Job 27:3 All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils.</i></p> <p>The spirit God placed within man will either depart from this life unregenerated – unchanged - NOT BORN-AGAIN – and it will go to hell, OR it will have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ and will return to God who gave it cleansed and acceptable.</p>
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<p>Romans 8:16-17</p> <p><i>The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.</i></p>	<p>Is a perfect example of the LDS taking a single passage or set of passages and using them to prove one of their fables.</p> <p>It reads:</p> <p>There could be no more true passage of scripture in the Bible when it is applied to believers who have come to know Jesus through their spirits.</p> <p>But what does the Bible say about the condition of men and women who have NOT experienced Jesus by faith?</p> <p>Job 25:6 <i>How much less man, that is a worm? and the son of man, which is a worm?</i></p> <p>Isaiah 40:7 <i>The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.</i></p> <p>Isaiah 64:6 ¶ <i>But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.</i></p> <p>And what does the Bible say about us being God's children?</p> <p>How does it happen? By birth</p>

	<p>and right or by conversion and faith?</p> <p>John 1:12 <i>But as many as received him, to them gave he power <u>to become the sons of God</u>, even to them that believe on his name.</i></p> <p>Romans 8:15 <i>For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received <u>the Spirit of adoption</u>, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.</i></p> <p>Galatians 3:26 <i>For ye are all the children of God <u>by faith</u> in Christ Jesus.</i></p> <p>John the beloved makes it perfectly clear that all of us here on earth are NOT – NOT –the children of God.</p> <p>1st John 3:1 <i>Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.</i></p>
<p>How about the LDS favorite?</p> <p>Jeremiah 1:5</p> <p><i>“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.</i></p>	<p>Can I re-read this with some different emphasis on some different syllables?</p> <p>BEFORE I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee, and before thou camest out of the womb, I sanctified thee and I ordained thee a prophet.</p>

	<p>The “I’s” refer to His foreknowledge and His omniscience, the “these are directly tied to the belly and the womb.</p> <p>The very fact that LDS misapply this passage illustrates their misunderstanding of the omniscience of God.</p> <p>God knows all things beginning to end, so of course He knows what Jeremiah would do and be, and of course He sanctified him in this work!</p> <p>This passage speaks to the eternity and power of GOD, NOT the eternity and existence of Jeremiah.</p> <p>Which leads us to the last passages of the favorite passages the LDS use to support the fable of pre-existence – John 9.</p> <p>It reads:</p>
<p>John 9:1-3 ¶ And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.</p> <p>2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?</p>	<p>The LDS believe that this passage proves that we lived in a pre-existent state before this life because how could the man born blind have sinned if he didn’t live before.</p> <p>A little historicity and study explains</p>

	<p>this clearly.</p> <p>First of all, the fable of a pre-existent state for man has been around long before Joseph ever incorporated it into his teachings.</p> <p>The Pythagoreans believed the souls of men were sent into other bodies for the punishment of some sin which they had committed in a pre-existent state.</p> <p>Interestingly enough, the LDS claim Christianity was warped by the infiltration of Hellenistic ideas and yet here Joseph embraced one of the biggest beliefs of the Greeks found throughout their mythology.</p> <p>So the disciples question to the Lord –</p> <p>“Did this man sin in a pre-existent state, that he is punished in this body with blindness? Or, did his parents commit some sin, for which they are thus plagued in their offspring?</p> <p>Most of the Asiatic nations have believed in the doctrine known as transmigration.</p> <p>The Hindoos believe that the most of their misfortunes arise out of the sins of a former birth; and, in moments of grief may break out into exclamations like:</p> <p>"Ah! in a former birth how many sins must I have committed, that I am thus afflicted!"</p> <p>Even some of the Jewish rabbins have had the same belief from the very</p>
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	<p>remotest antiquity.</p> <p>Origen cites an apocryphal book of the Hebrews, the patriarch Jacob saying:</p> <p>“I am an angel of God; one of the first order of spirits. Men call me Jacob, but my true name, which God has given me, is Israel.”</p> <p>Many of the Jewish doctors have believed that the souls of Adam, Abraham, and Phineas, have successively animated the great men of their nation.</p> <p>Philo says that the air is full of spirits, and that some join themselves to bodies; and that others have an aversion from such a union.</p> <p>Josephus (Ant. b. xvii. c. 1, s. 3, and War, b. ii. c. 8, s. 14,) say the Pharisees believed that the souls of those only who were pious were permitted to reanimate human bodies, and this was rather by way of reward than punishment; and that the souls of the vicious are put into eternal prisons, where they are continually tormented, and out of which they can never escape.</p> <p>Finally, Lightfoot taught that some of the rabbis believed that it was possible for an infant to sin in the womb, and to be punished with some bodily infirmity in consequence.</p> <p>Jesus, in His simple and effective way, clears the whole matter up by saying:</p>
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	<p><i>Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.</i></p>
<p>In conclusion, what does the WORD say?</p> <p>It says plainly and clearly that we are beings created out of the dust of the earth – star dust as my friend Ken would say - and animated by the breath of God.</p> <p>It states clearly that there is only one pre-existent being to ever walk the earth – and His name was Yeshua, the Messiah.</p> <p>John the Baptist said of Jesus</p> <p><i>“He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all.”</i></p> <p>Only Jesus existed with the Father, and only Jesus came forth to us to bear witness of who God is.</p> <p>Speaking to the Jews, Jesus said</p> <p><i>“Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world.”</i></p> <p>Realizing from where Jesus had come, the apostles looked on Him and claimed:</p> <p><i>“Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man</i></p>	

*should ask thee: by this we believe that
thou camest forth from God."*

By embracing the fable of a pre-existence, the LDS not only are teaching something untrue, they are teaching that all of us share in a heavenly heritage – just like Jesus.

Paul makes clear the distinction between earthy things like ourselves, and heavenly things like the Lord Jesus in 1st Corinthians 15:47

Speaking of Adam, Paul wrote"

47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.

49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

The doctrine of a pre-existence is misleading, mythological, and leads to people accepting a fairy tale gospel from the minds of men while ignoring the saving truths that come with knowledge of God's written Word.

Let's go to the phones:

(801) 973-TV20

(801) 973-8820

EMAILS

CONCLUSION

Pastor in the pub

LORD'SWORD

<p>LIVE!</p> <p>From the Mecca of Mormonism . . .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Salt Lake City, Utah! <p>THIS . . . is Heart of the Matter!</p>	<p>Show 4 FABLES II God Part I</p> <p>January 22nd 2008</p> <p>And I'm Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>Streaming Video Announcement</p>	
<p>In the House tonight!</p>	
<p>Idaho Open House</p> <p>When: Monday February 4th 2008 7-9pm</p> <p>Where: KCLP 309 ½ 11th Avenue South Nampa, Idaho</p> <p>Who: Everyone</p> <p>Pastor in the Pub Tonight!</p> <p>Denny's 250 West 500 South Downtown SLC</p>	
<p>In the News . . .</p>	

RECENT EMAILS of Note:	

PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER	
<p>Last week we spoke about fables – namely, the LDS myth of a human pre-existence.</p> <p>We presented the most often used biblical verses the LDS use to justify Joseph Smith’s teaching that all human beings lived before life on earth.</p> <p>Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 1:9 –</p> <p><i>“There is no new thing under the sun.”</i></p> <p>Meaning, all the core principles of truth and deception have been around from the beginning – shared by every culture – and are only re-interpreted, re-presented, and re-applied in different ways with each generation.</p> <p>Because of time last week I wasn’t able to get to the final passage the LDS use to support Joseph Smith’s anti-biblical claim that we were all lived in pre-existent state.</p> <p>Before we move on into tonight’s topic let’s review those passages in John 9:1-3:</p>	
<p>John 9:1-3 ¶ <i>And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.</i></p> <p>2 <i>And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?</i></p>	<p>Many LDS believe that this passage proves that we lived in a pre-existent</p>

	<p>state before this life because when could this man who was born blind have sinned?</p> <p>The most simple explanation comes from Bible commentator Lightfoot (not Gordon) who noted that many Jews believed it was possible for a child to sin in utero.</p> <p>If this was the context, the explanation is obvious – and it isn't a pre-existence.</p> <p>But it is possible this wasn't the context at all.</p> <p>The fable of a pre-existent state for Man has been around long before Joseph ever incorporated it into his teachings.</p> <p>The Pythagoreans believed the souls of men were sent into other bodies for the punishment of some sin which they had committed in a pre-existent state – which is a VERY Greek concept.</p> <p>Interestingly enough, the LDS claim that <i>Christianity</i> was corrupted by the infiltration of Hellenistic ideas and yet Joseph embraced one of the biggest Grecian mythologies around – the pre-existence of Man.</p> <p>So, it is also possible that the disciples, understanding and possibly having been influenced by the Hellenistic myth of a pre-existence, questioned the Lord about the situation, saying –</p>
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"Did this man sin in a pre-existent state, that he is punished in this body with blindness? Or, did his parents commit some sin, for which he is plagued being their offspring?"

Speaking to His chosen disciples in John 15:3, Jesus states:

Now you are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

What He was saying was: I have taught you truth from error, and you are clean of all these falsehoods that have been passed down from any number of cultures and traditions so you can now go forth and teach men and women the truth (with a capital T).

The questions of the disciples were not always doctrinal truths – in fact they were often full of error – but it is the answers from the Lord we look to for the truth!

See the difference?

Now most Asian nations have at one time or another believed in a doctrine known as transmigration.

The Hindu's believe that the most of their misfortunes arise out of the sins of a former birth; and, in moments of grief may break out into exclamations like:

"Ah! in a former birth how many sins must I have committed, that I am thus afflicted!"

Even some of the Jewish rabbis have had the same belief from the very remotest antiquity.

But this does not make it True! Idol worship has existed from antiquity and so has polytheism – neither of which are correct.

Now Origen has - in the apocryphal “*Book of the Hebrews*,” - the patriarch Jacob” saying:

“I am an angel of God; one of the first order of spirits. Men call me Jacob, but my true name, which God has given me, is Israel:”

And many of the Jewish doctors believed that the souls of Adam, Abraham, and Phineas, have successively animated the great men of their nation.

Fanciful? Yes.
Fables? Yes!

Philo said that the air is full of spirits, and that some join themselves to bodies; and that others have an aversion from such a union.

Josephus (Ant. b. xvii. c. 1, s. 3, and War, b. ii. c. 8, s. 14,) said the Pharisees believed that “the souls of those only who were pious were permitted to reanimate human bodies,” and that “the souls of the vicious are put into eternal prisons, where they are continually tormented, and out of which they can never escape.”

Because their names are Origen, Philo, and Josephus doesn't mean the things they suggested or reported were true either!

GOSH.

All of it is just evidence of misguided teachings.

And let me make a VERY IMPORTANT point here:

LDS apologists LOVE taking quotes from early Christian writers which support their LDS doctrines and use them as a defense that Christianity once had the truths the LDS maintain today.

Let me say this: Church History stinks.

What Origen and Lucretius and Jerome and any other non-apostolic commentator said – including Luther, including Calvin, including you or me – means nothing at all relative to absolute Truth.

Nothing!

What we rely look to and rely upon is what is written in the Word!

And just because some early Christian fathers and writers had ideas and opinions does NOT mean they were right!

The Word is right. And if you doubt that, we'll keep watching.

	<p>Now, in the face of this errant teaching, Jesus, in His simple and effective way, clears the whole matter up:</p> <p>He says: <i>Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.</i></p> <p>Why was he born blind? That the works of God should be made manifest in him.</p> <p>To use <i>a question</i> the disciples asked Jesus <i>to support a doctrine</i> would be like using the elements Judas's betrayal - 30 pieces of silver, the kiss, his suicide - and calling them doctrinally normative!</p> <p>Get it?</p> <p>All right.</p>
<p>The fable of a human pre-existence dovetails naturally into another LDS fable – one of the most pernicious, humanistic, man-centered fables Joseph could have ever devised – that God the Father has a body of flesh and bone.</p> <p>I want you to just sit back for a moment and think about three basic ideas for a moment.</p> <p>I am doing this because I want to plant good seeds of truth in your heart, that will grow and flourish as you examine the fables you have long embraced.</p>	

First, I want you to remember a simple phrase Jesus uttered when speaking to the Samaritan woman at the well.

Just listen to this phrase.

"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

(REPEAT IT.)

Why didn't Jesus say, God has a body of flesh and bones, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

Do you realize what you are doing when you believe a man who claims God is tangible as man and Jesus Himself said God is a spirit!

Do you understand automatically that you are standing against the entire Word of God by believing this fable!

Why is this so important?

Because when you buy into the idea that God the father has a body of flesh and bone, you will then buy into another fable which says you came from His presence to gain a body . . .

. . . which leads you to another fable that says with that body you - YOU - YOU must earn your salvation by your efforts, and your determination, which, causing you to miss the point for Jesus all together, you then begin to embrace the deadliest fable of them all - that you can actually become a God like unto the one you worship . . . (beat) . . . and the simple

message of salvation by grace through faith in Him alone is lost . . .

And you might be too . . . chained forever to a system that promises you “worlds without end so long as you commit and dedicate everything to their costly layaway plan.

The next thing I want you to consider is why Jesus came to earth.

John 1:14 *And the Word (JESUS) was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

Isaiah 40:5 *And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.*

Galatians 4:4 *But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law.*

Colossians 2:9 *For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*

1st Timothy 3:16 *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

You see, Jesus came from a pre-existent life – as God, as creator of all things - and subjected Himself to this world by taking on a body of flesh and bones and REVEALING TO US the invisible God.

Within Him dwell all of the Godhead bodily. He was God in the flesh, and He subjected Himself to the will of the Father, who as a spirit dwelled in places we could only imagine.

This father is not visible by Man.

John 1:18 *No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.*

John 5:37 *And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.*

1st Timothy 1:17 *Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

Speaking of God the Father,
1st Timothy 6:16 says

"Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting.

Hebrews 12:29 says
For our God is a consuming fire.

Finally, with just the idea that the writer of Hebrews might be right, I want you to imagine the universe.

When we take our last breath the invisible part of us – our soul and spirit – departs this physical realm.

Jesus took His body with Him because Jesus is going to return with that body. And we will some day, as creations, be

<p>resurrected into a perfect physical form.</p> <p>But the invisible God, the consuming fire, is not restricted in a six foot tall, three foot wide, box. Wake up, my brothers and sisters.</p> <p>Imagine the Universe. Unimaginably vast!</p> <p>STORY of Ken the astronomer, a regular at our Pastor in the Pub.</p> <p>First, a picture of our galaxy. Swirling shape. Vast.</p> <p>Suns Stars Planets Black holes</p> <p>Millions upon millions of objects floating, orbiting, glowing and dying.</p> <p>Some 250,000,000 of them in our beautiful galaxy.</p> <p>And there, right on the cusp, sits little old blue dot – earth.</p> <p>Then a 1 inch square of the night sky.</p> <p>250 galaxies – just like ours! Some bigger, some smaller, all in that shape!</p> <p>Then a four by three inch segment – venturing out into deep space.</p> <p>Some quarter of a million galaxies – just in that small segment of sky! All with a 250,000,000 stars, and planets, and . . .</p>	
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<p>and . . . and</p> <p>And God is sitting over this, governing all of this, creating and managing all of this, from a body with armpits, testicles, and a set of lungs – which can't be used in a place without the right mixtures of oxygen.</p> <p>Come on.</p> <p>And yet, those scrubbed and trimmed missionaries continue to hit the streets, selling the message that God was once a man, has a body of flesh and bone, and that if you too can become a God if you join the club.</p> <p>Psalms 8:4 <i>What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?</i></p> <p>But He does . . . in spirit and in truth.</p>	
<p>The LDS – missionaries especially – refer to a number of biblical passages to support their claims that God has a body of flesh and bone.</p> <p>We've covered these before on the show.</p> <p>In the end, most of them are Hebraisms used in literature to explain God's reactions in terms understandable to human beings.</p> <p>If the Bible says that God appeared to Moses (or that Moses spake to God face to face as a man speaketh with His friend) but other passages state that "no man has seen God at any time and lived," that "God is invisible" that "God is a</p>	

spirit” than we must conclude that we are reading too much into passages that speak of God in anthropomorphic terms or that the Bible contradicts itself.

I agree with Paul when He said *let God be true but every man a liar*.

Do you believe Jesus when He said no man has seen God at any time or Joseph who claims to have seen Him in a body of flesh and bone?

Do you believe Jesus when He said God is Spirit or do you believe Joseph who said God has a body of flesh and bone.

Listen, let’s be frank here: If you are LDS and you have done ANY independent thinking at all, you know you have been asked to buy into a lot of very sketchy stuff.

From God appearing in a body, to golden plates in hills, ancient papyri direct from the hand of Abraham, secret polygamy of the founders, mountain meadows massacres, blacks and the priesthood – and the temple rites? I know what has gone through you heads.

I’ve been there. I know you have looked around and wondered.

I know you have doubted. And you should doubt!

Give yourself the chance to know truth.
To know Jesus.
To have Him in your life.

Finally, the biggest biblical claim that

<p>God has a body of flesh and bone – aside from Joseph saying that he saw Him and He does – is the passage that says</p> <p>“Let us make man in our own image.”</p> <p>Obviously God must have a body for us to be made in His image, right?</p> <p>Before I answer this, let’s open up the phones</p> <p>(801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p> <p>LDS First time callers, please Short concise questions or comments</p>	
<p>Three in one.</p> <p>Leads us to discuss the Trinity next week.</p>	
Emails???	
Pastor in the Pub	
Lordsword	

<p>Live!</p> <p>From the Mecca of Mormonism – SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH!</p> <p>This is Heart of the Matter</p>	<p><i>Show 5 Fables III - God Part II</i> <i>January 29th 2008</i></p> <p>And I'm your host, Shawn McCraney</p>
LIVE STREAMING VIDEO	
IN-THE-HOUSE	
<p>This coming week we're going to be in BOISE IDAHO area . . .</p> <p>Sunday afternoon speaking at the</p> <hr/> <p>Then Sunday evening, we'll be at the Nampa Calvary Chapel at 7pm.</p> <p>Then . . .</p> <p>Monday night, February 4th, we'll be at the KCLP open house there in Nampa!</p> <p>7 to 9pm</p> <p>All invited to come down to the studio for a meet and greet.</p>	
<p>And hey, those of you out in the Orem, Provo, Spring - ville area, I'm going to be out at Gift of Grace Bookstore in Springville on</p> <p>_____</p> <p>From _____ to _____</p> <p>For a book signing.</p> <p>Gift of Grace bookstore is located at</p>	

<hr/> <p>We'd love to see you there.</p>	
<p>LDS Church mourns the passing of its beloved prophet, Gordon Bitner Hinckley.</p> <p>I've received a number of calls and emails asking my thoughts on the death of this 98 year old prophet, seer, and revelator for the LDS church.</p> <p>First and foremost, Gordon Hinckley was a father and husband, grandfather and great grandfather.</p> <p>Our condolences go out to all the family who will surely miss this man and who are so proud of the moral life he lived.</p> <p>Secondly, Gordon B Hinckley served millions of people over numerous decades – he inspired them with good morals, sound standards, and the encouragement to “Stand for Something.”</p> <p>Moral leaders on this earth are a great benefit and he certainly will be missed for his contributions to the betterment of this fallen world.</p> <p>Finally, Gordon B Hinckley was put in a position to lead millions upon millions of trusting and believing people to a relationship with the LORD Jesus.</p> <p>He was in a position to reveal to them the truths about Joseph Smith and his history, about the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price.</p> <p>Gordon Hinckley was given the keys and</p>	

authority – and the respect from men – that placed him in a position to tell people that they are sinful, that they must be born-again, and to emphasize that everyone on earth needs to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ over an allegiance to the culture and practices of Mormonism.

In this he failed.

Over the past two or so days, talk radio and internet forums have received hundreds – if not thousands – of calls and posts from faithful LDS regarding the passing of their beloved prophet.

The vast majority – upwards of 95% of these communications that I’ve been privy to, have had a similar theme:

“GBH was a good, humble, faithful, moral man (etc. etc. etc.) who is now with his beloved . . . Margie.”

Nearly every single communication has included the peace and joy the LDS people have felt knowing that their beloved prophet is now with . . . his wife, “Margie.”

When Billy Graham dies, when any Christian dies, the universal Christian response would certainly be “He is with the Lord,” “He is with Jesus whom he served so well.”

But to the faithful Mormon – who Gordon B. Hinkley has directly influenced, taught, and led for most of his life, the sentiment, which reveals the content of thier hearts, has been, *“He’s now with Margie.”*

I would suggest to you, with all due respect to the extended Hinckley family, that Gordon B Hinckley is currently experiencing nothing

<p>short of total theological shock.</p> <p>He is seeing, for possibly the first time in his life, the absolute terror and glory of the infinite living God – whom He claimed He does not embrace.</p> <p>He is seeing Joseph Smith’s teachings revealed for what they were and he is profoundly aware of all he could have done to bring LDS people to a love for the cross and all he failed to do to free these people from the philosophies of men.</p> <p>May God bless your soul, President Hinckley.</p> <p>And with this blessing, I challenge the next prophet, seer and revelator – who it appears will be Thomas S Monson - to drop all the fables Joseph Smith Junior presented as God offered truth, and led this body of his followers to repent for accepting these teachings, and to bring the general membership of your institution to a saving knowledge of Jesus as the uncreated eternal God, of the Bible as the infallible Word of God, and to the faithful doctrine that every single one of us is saved by grace - and grace alone – through faith on Him who is mighty to save.</p>	
<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>	
<p>Last Saturday night I boarded the usual flight out of Long Beach, CA and was seated next to two women – a mother and daughter team who were in California to see a theatrical play.</p> <p>They were friendly ladies, and I soon learned they were faithful LDS.</p> <p>The daughter – who was sitting next to me –</p>	

was in her mid thirties and politely asked me a number of questions about myself.

I told her I was a Pastor. She was very complimentary and seemed supportive. Half way through the flight I informed her that I had, indeed been LDS for forty years – and then the plot thickened.

The woman's mother hadn't said an awful lot up to this point, but after learning that I used to be LDS, and am now a Christian pastor, she chose to enter in the discussion with a question – a question I believe she submitted on the offence which represented the very best question she thought she could ask to a man who was once active LDS and is now a born-again Christian.

And while I avoided asking her questions about Joseph Smith's wives, or the Pearl of Great Price, or priesthood in light of Hebrews, (and oddly, she didn't bring these issues up either) I am fairly certain she actually believed she was going to rise up in that chair and just send me to my knees with her query. She asked:

"So you believe they are all one? You know, God and Jesus – that they are one?"

I simply said "yes."

And then she did what she has been programmatically taught to do – she used a specific situation out of the Bible which she has been taught proves they are NOT one, and she awkwardly threw it down.

"So how do you explain John the Baptist?"

That was all she said.

"You mean when John the Baptists baptized Jesus and the spirit descended like a dove and the voice of God was heard from heaven? How do I explain these manifestations in light of my belief that they are all one? Is that what you are asking me?"

Laughingly, as if to mock my reply before I even gave it, she said with a very friendly smile, "yes."

And so I gave her some background that she may or may not have really understood.

"Well first off, I think there are something that needs to be cleared up."

Now she appeared to be listening, but her response to my explanation told me that she didn't hear a word out of my mouth.

But anyway, I said, "the major difference between the LDS concept of God and the Christian belief in God is that to the LDS believe God the Father has a body of flesh and bones and Christians believe God the Father is a spirit. Otherwise, both traditions teach that there are three distinct personages.

The second thing is that the LDS teach that these three personages are three separate God's that form a Godhead where Christians believe that the three personages are God, One God, and the Only God."

"One God," she said.

"One God," I replied.

"What you call the Trinity," she smugly smiled. And before I could respond, she made some comment about the Nicene Creed, and about not being able to understand that

at all, and the conversation sort of just retreated backward into nothing talk.

Tonight, I am going to present to you with a biblical defense of the Christian concept called the Trinity - an teaching that the LDS strongly condemn AND greatly mock as it is found in the Christian faith.

There are several Bible passages Mormons and their missionaries use to prove the idea of a Trinity false. We'll try and highlight the biggies in a moment.

Out of all the Christian teachings that the LDS have the hardest time embracing, the Trinity tops the list.

There are a number of reasons for this:

First, it has been crammed in their head that God the Father has a body. This teaching is solely the result of Joseph Smith.

Second, they have been taught that the word Trinity is not in the Bible, that the concept was the result of a council of men in a place called Nicea, and that the true gospel and church, once restored through Joseph Smith, possesses the correct concept of God.

Third, the more advanced teachings on the eternality of matter and an eternal regression of Gods, and the idea that God was once a man fortifies a wall of resistance against accepting the Trinity.

However, the number one reason Latter-day Saints can't or won't entertain or embrace the idea of three beings in one God is because it is not *comprehensible to them*.

This is a very important distinction.

You see, if the eternal God is not comprehensible to the finite Mormon mind, then the finite Mormon mind will find something that is comprehensible, and make it doctrine.

Joseph brough heaven – even the eternal God – down to earth and supplied us with all the answers.

I am going to give my best defense of the concept of three in One tonight.

I don't like the word Trinity but I don't like the word Tri-unity or any other man-made word. I like God.

But for consistencies sake I'll use the word Trinity tonight.

Before so doing, I want to make a few things clear:

First, I am not going to resort to those cute little man-made illustrations like "the egg, yolk, shell" or "the steam, ice, water favorites." So please don't call and suggest them. They fail under scrutiny.

Secondly, it is important for you to understand, my LDS friends, that in order to truly get a viable, working knowledge of the trinity, you have to read the entire Bible WITH regenerated eyes.

1st Corinthian 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Reading the Bible alone won't do it.
Being born-again alone won't typically do it.
You must have and do both – with eyes
willing to see and ears willing to hear.

Third, the Bible supports and teaches the
doctrine of three beings in one God. This was
not a product of Nicea and men formulating a
doctrine from nothing.

They formulated the doctrine using the Bible
as their text and they did so to offset heresies
(like Arianism) which were cropping up and
taking hold on weak believers.

Fourth, because some Christians explain the
Trinity in faulty, unbiblical terms does not
mean the Trinity is faulty. It simply means
you are speaking to Christians who do not
know or understand the Word.

And this brings me to a final point: Be very
careful with feeling victorious because you
have a belief in the make-up of God that can
be qualified, quantified, and readily
explained in humanistic terms.

In some areas of life, having all the answers is
highly indicative of your having been duped.

Groucho Marx once said that *"he would never
want to belong to a club that would have him as a
member."* Likewise, I would never want to
worship, trust and rely upon a God whom I
could completely comprehend in my little
mind.

So on with a case – and a defense – for the
One God, three in One, or what Christian's
refer to as "the Holy Trinity."

To begin, every one of the three members of the Trinity – are called “God” in scripture.

Speaking of the Father

John 6:27 . . . *for Him hath God the Father sealed.*

Speaking of the Son, Paul wrote:

1st Timothy 3:16 *God was manifest in the flesh,*

And in recounting the story of Annaias lying to the Holy Spirit, Luke wrote:

Acts 5:3 *Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost . . . why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.*

Likewise, the Word describes the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as

Creating Beings

Isaiah 64:8, John 1:3, and Genesis 1:2

Of each being Omnipresent

1st Kings 8:27, Matt 8:20 and Psalms 139:7-10

Of each being Omniscient

1st John 3:20, John 16:30, and 1st Corinthians 2:10-11

And the Word also ascribes each of them as “Resurrecting” and “Indwelling” beings.

(On Resurrecting beings, see)

John 10:17-18, Eph. 1:19-20 and Romans 8:11

(on Indwelling beings, see)

2nd Corinthians 6:16, 2nd Cor. 1:27 and John 14:7

GO TO THE BOARD

Now, understanding the general names of God is also important to understanding His nature.

When we read

God in English in the OT, it is translated from the word “Elohim” from the Hebrew.

Elohim is a title for God, not a proper noun, and it is the plural of El (adding an “IM” in the Hebrew is like us adding an “s” in English.) It is NOT God’s name, but would be akin to the word Captain or general in English.

Now if we read, GOD in the English OT, this is translated from the Hebrew YHWH – four letters which we are not sure of the vowel markings but think it is pronounced Yahway – which we have anglocanized as Jehovah.

This is the NAME OF GOD.

It’s referred to as the tetragrammaton and is most sacred to the Jews.

It consists of only four consonants without any vowels or vowel markings.

This is what it looks like
(DRAW THEM)

Whenever we read the word LORD in the OT, we are reading the same Hebrew word used for GOD = Yahway.

Finally, there is the word Lord, which

comes from the Hebrew word Adon.

Adon, in the Hebrew, means “one possessed of absolute control.” It denotes a master, as of slaves (Ge 24:14,27), or a ruler of his subjects (Ge 45:8), or a husband, as lord of his wife (Ge 18:12).

Now the plural form of this Hebrew word is “adonai” and because the Jews had an almost superstitious reverence for the name “Jehovah” or “Yahway,” when they read their Scriptures, whenever that name appeared, they always pronounced it “Adonai,” referring to one who has absolute control.

Now, the LDS maintain that the name Jehovah is the name for Jesus alone and the name Elohim is the personal name for God the Father.

However, there are plenty of references in the OT which assign traits and characteristics of Elohim to the person Jesus (or who the LDS call Jehovah) and plenty of references where the name Jehovah – whom the LDS say is the pronoun for Jesus – is assigned to the works of the Father.

There is TOTAL consistency in the Christian application of these names. There is inconsistencies and confusion in the LDS redefinition of these Holy names.

I’m NOT going to take the time here tonight, but do a little research on the names of God alone. And as usual, go to www.UTLM.org for more information on this subject.

Now, I hope and pray you’re still here after all that because now I want to really get to the heart of the matter (gosh, I can be so witty).

In Deuteronomy 6:4, we can still read the Great Shema of the Jewish nation – their declaration of who God is and how He is different from all the heathen nation Gods:

Deuteronomy 6:4 ¶ *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD.*

OR

Shama Yisra'el:Y@hovah, 'elohiym 'echad Y@hovah!

Jehovah, our God, is one Jehovah.

1st Corinthians 8:4 in the New Testament reaffirms this when it says:

There is none other God than One.

To get a better grasp on this One God, let me take you back to the time before Jesus was born.

Did you know that God was not spoken of as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit before the birth of Jesus!?

Did you know that God, in the Old Testament would constantly affirm - over and over and over again - that He was God and there was NONE before Him.

Did you know – NOW LISTEN, MY LDS FRIENDS – did you know that out of the entire Old Testament, there are only three verses – THREE – that even refer to God in terms of being a father, and that only ONE of those verses speaks of Him as God the Father with a capital “F”!!!!!!

And wait until you hear the verse that uses Father with a capital F. But let me explain

God in Old Testament terms.

(GO TO BOARD)

If we look at the board, this is a rude illustration of God of the Old Testament.

(Go to triangle of God on board)

One God – but certainly plural in nature because in Genesis it reads God as saying, “let us make man in our own image.”

But remember, there are plenty of passages that refer to God as One and as Only One!

So Old Testament, God is typically described as One God but is not divided into Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

But then, Jesus comes to earth!

Now imagine for a minute that Jesus does not call Himself, and neither do His followers call Him, “The Son of God,” but instead He calls Himself “God.”

How much flack and explaining do you suppose He would have to do everytime He prayed?

“So, Jesus, if you’re God, duh, who are you praying to? huh? Huh? Huh?”

So He is called the Son of God.

Now this title was a title that made Him equal to God, but it also allowed Him to be subject, having taken on a body of flesh, to the Father

of our spirits.

And He represents to us the relationship we can have with the Father of our spirits once we have been born-again.

Jesus took upon Himself a body of flesh and blood, He condescended below all things, and in this state He subjected Himself completely to the will of the Father – the Father who was not generally called or known as the Father prior to Jesus appearing.

Now look at the board.

(Draw out the Venn diagram)

So, because God so loved the world, he gave His only begotten Son.

This Venn diagram helps us understand the nature of God- being one God of three parts.

We could assign a few other biblically supported concepts of three in one in a Venn diagram which would help in our understanding:

TEMPLE

MAN

Now listen to the ONLY verse in the Old Testament where God is described as the Father with a capital F

LISTEN, all you people who deny the oneness of God!

<p>LISTEN all you people who say Jesus was not God!</p> <p>LISTEN all you people who love to place yourselves next to Jesus. LISTEN to the words of God through the prophet Isaiah who was speaking prophetically about the condescension of God:</p> <p>Isaiah 9:6 <i>For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.</i></p> <p>The New Testament is full of supportive passages of the oneness of God which has nothing to do with purpose.</p> <p>1st John 5:7 <i>For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.</i></p> <p>Listen to what Jesus said about Himself!</p> <p>John 14:7 <i>If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.</i></p>	
<p>Now the LDS smugly pull several instances from the Bible to support their philosophy that the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit are not ONE God, but are one in purpose, but two separate God's in bodies</p>	

and one God to be in spirit.

The **first** was brought up by the woman on the plane.

It occurred when Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist and a voice came from heaven saying this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased and the Holy Spirit descended like a dove.”

If we simply look at the evidence presented, we have no problem understanding that

1. Because God the Son submitted Himself to all things in the flesh as our example and propitiation for sin, He also submitted Himself to the will of God the Father and the total influence of the God the Holy Spirit.
Where’s the issue?

The Second example they use occurs when Stephen was being stoned, where it says

Acts 7:55 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

Oh, this just excites the LDS attackers of the Trinity, unaware of the blinders over their spiritual eyes!

Read this passage again:

But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, SO first of all the Holy Spirit was present within Stephen

...

looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God,

And He say the GLORY of GOD! He didn't see God with a body of flesh and bone, but His shikinah glory, blasting infernally into the eternities . . . why? Because no man has ever seen God the Father.

and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

Jesus standing, in His body, at the right hand of God's glory.

There is nothing inconsistent in this passage with the constructs of the Holy Trinity!

Nothing.

Now sometimes the LDS will say "*How was Jesus on God's right hand?*"

The right hand of God was a way to say, in full power and authority, NOT that the glory of God had an actual right hand!

Two more.

In the Lord's intercessory prayer with His apostles found in John 17, we read Jesus saying:

John 17:22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

The missionaries love to say in the face of this

<p>passage – “how could the disciples be one as God and Jesus are one if they were all in different bodies? They couldn’t, right? Therefore they must be one in purpose, right? And therefore God and Jesus are one in purpose, not one God!”</p> <p>The oneness of God is oneness of spirit. Three in one. But God the Father is spirit. God the Holy Spirit is spirit. And the spirit within the body of Jesus is spirit.</p> <p>The pre-existent God, the Old Testament God was one God, three parts, of spirit! Jesus condescended for us into a body of flesh, but the spiritual oneness of God is plainly made manifest here in this passage.</p> <p>Before we go to the phones, let me give you one last passage, from the New Testament, which validates all I’ve said relative to the Trinity, relative to Jesus being God in the flesh, and relative to Mormonisms twist on these biblical truths:</p> <p><i>Colossians 2:8-9 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.</i></p> <p>Come to the truth, the truth of Christ Jesus, and be set free from the vain deceits of Man, my friends.</p>	
<p>Let’s open up the phone lines: (801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p>	

Emails:	
Conclusion:	

Pastor in the Pub tonight at Denny's in
downtown SLC 250 West and 500 South

Boise:

<p>LIVE! From the Mecca of Mormonism!</p> <p>This is HEART OF THE MATTER . . .</p>	<p>Show 6 God's Many? February 5th 2008</p> <p>And I'm Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
STREAMING VIDEO	
IN-THE-HOUSE TONIGHT!	
<p>Hey, we had a great time in state of Idaho over the weekend.</p> <p>Had an open house last night at our sister station KCLP which was a great event.</p> <p>Then we spoke to a couple churches on Sunday . . .</p> <p>A Romanian Church presented us with a host of beautiful musical numbers and the Calvary Chapel in Nampa with pastors Rich and Paul had their worship leader Kevin introduce me with a rocking version of "Rusty Cage" - that's the song at the end of the show.</p> <p>Loved it all.</p> <p>Listen, we love to speak to churches as it is a win/ win for all involved.</p> <p>The churches win because we are able to bring people to the church who have never been there before and our ministry wins because more people are exposed to what we're doing.</p> <p>Talk to your pastors about having us come and speak to your church.</p>	

<p>You can reach us at www.bornagainmormon.com</p>	
<p>I Was A Born-Again Mormon</p>	<p>Available at:</p> <p>Utah Lighthouse Ministry Gift of Grace Christian Supply in Springville (by the way, this coming Monday evening, we are going to be at Gift of Grace Christian Supply on main street in Springville from 5 to 7 pm. Come on out and see us!) Oasis Books in Logan Calvary Chapel SLC Sam Weller's downtown Christian Gift and Bible in Sandy</p> <p>And of course online at www.bornagainmormon.com</p>
<p>LORD'SWORD</p> <p>Now some of you listeners don't have a church you attend.</p> <p>It may have been years since you stepped foot inside of one for any number of reasons.</p> <p>Well, I want to invite you to get your arses out of bed on Sunday morning and join us at Lord'sword at the Gateway Theaters in downtown SLC.</p> <p>One hour - and you will walk away having heard the Word taught, having</p>	

<p>heard simple worship music, and having prayed. And you might – if you want – even make a friend as we get together after the service at the Gateway food court.</p> <p>We also meet at the University of Utah every Sunday evening.</p> <p>Go to www.lordsword.org for directions, addresses and more information.</p>	
<p>MARCH TRAVELING PASTOR IN THE PUB?</p> <p>TOOELE!</p> <p>When: Monday Night, March 3rd Where: Time: Why: Meet, greet, and baptize!</p>	
<p>IN THE LDSNEWS</p> <p>There's been a lot of fanfare in the face of the passing of President Gordon B. Hinckley.</p> <p>Mary Francis T – a faithful watcher of Heart of the Matter – forwarded a poem one of her stalwart LDS friends penned regarding His passing:</p> <p>(Read Poem)</p>	
<p>I received an email from someone not too long ago mentioning that they had trouble understanding who speaks for</p>	

the LDS church, what is doctrine, what is not, and how the church morphs and manages all of its changes.

In essence, the writer wanted to know how the “Church gets away with it?”

I thought I’d take just a minute and explain something a number of people don’t understand about the Church, its doctrines, and its practices.

First, the LDS leadership very, very rarely totally rescinds anything relative to revelations or doctrine.

Even when they commanded that plural marriages cease by manifesto, all they did was discontinue the earthly practice, but they did not rescinding the doctrine – which is why the LDS scriptures today still teach the eternal laws of polygamy.

The 1978 revelation that black males could receive the LDS priesthood was not an apology for them not being able to receive it prior, but it was merely a change in practice.

By refusing to rescind doctrines or to call them an error of the times, the LDS leadership is forever in a position to re-institute any doctrine or practice they want while maintaining the “integrity” of the original prophetic stance.

Now a strong and active sub-plot to this non rescinding practice is the churches convenient use of “non-authoritative spokespersons.”

For example, members of the church

are allowed to teach and embrace a whole host of beliefs that have been issued “non-authoritatively” by members of the church – even leaders of the Church – but when such teachings are criticized or brought to the light, the standard response from the Church and it’s defenders is

“Well, it was never doctrine.”

The late apostles John A Widstoe and Bruce R McConkie are perfect case in points.

They were allowed to say all sorts of insane junk, teach all sorts of insane junk, and get true believing Mormons to embrace all kinds of . . .

Insane junk . . . ☺ . . . but when these teachings are criticized today, the standard reply is, “Well, the work of McConkie or Widstoe or whomever was never canonized – or made scripture.”

SO what it does is it gets members believing stuff while the unofficial spokes person is alive that is later discounted.

How freakin sick!

This is why nobody with a right mind should listen to one thing a Bob Millet-type writes or says.

You see, the leadership will use these guys – and there are hundreds of them around today – to say the right things to the media, or to the Christian churches in which they are invited to speak, but rest assured, when the

<p>rubber meets the road, the Church will always call the words of these men their “opinions” and not doctrine.</p> <p>Now that Mormonism has world power, it is calling on their own respective members to speak loudly on the things they hold true.</p> <p>So in addition to the Millet’s of the world – the educated, seem like spokesmen but are not guys – we now have thousands of regular old members running around sharing their particular views.</p> <p>But remember, it is the leadership that determines doctrine, and if an unofficial member were to say something that didn’t benefit the public image of the church – whether true or not - the leadership will step in and crush whatever has been said.</p> <p>This is the game.</p> <p>This is how they manipulate the media, and the masses, and are able to so do without apology.</p> <p>I thank God that we have His Word as a lamp unto our feet, and not the machinations of men which are constantly being used to manipulate the actions of the masses.</p>	
<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>	
<p>Let me share a factual either/or with you tonight:</p> <p><u>Either matter has always existed OR it</u></p>	

was created out of nothing.

Pretty wild thought, huh? Let me say it again:

Either matter has always existed OR it was created at some point out of nothing.

Bible believing Christians believe that God – the eternal One, the first and the last – created everything – all matter – out of nothing.

The fancy phrase for this is “creatio ex nihilo.”

LDS doctrine, as a result of Joseph Smith, Jr., believe that matter has always existed, that it can’t be created or destroyed . . . even by God Himself.

These different theological positions on matter or material lead us straight into our topic tonight – which is the LDS idea of there being many God’s – or, as the theologians put it, their belief in an “eternal regression of God’s.”

The Bible is very, very plain on this subject. Listen to what God says about Himself and other God’s:

Exodus 8:10 reads:

“there is none like unto the LORD our God.”

Deuteronomy 32:39 says

“See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me:”

(god is a lower case g here)

2nd Samuel 7:22 says

"Wherefore thou art great, O LORD God: for there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears."



(This is a really important verse because the God in "neither is there any God beside thee" is God with a capital G, meaning there is no elohim besides Him!" WOW!)

1st Samuel 2:2 says

"There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God."

As a side note, who does the Bible call the Rock? J-E-S-U-S. You could read this "Neither is there any Jesus like our God."

Isaiah 45:22 says

"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else."

Listen to this, you fools who believe God is a Man or has a body of a Man . .

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Isaiah 40:18

"To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?"

How about Isaiah 46:9

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me."

Isaiah 44:8 asks

"Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any."

ANOTHER CAPITAL "G" God meaning there is no "Elohim God" beside Him.

Finally, the Psalmist writes:

Psalms 90:2 " . . . even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God."

But along came Joseph Smith, Jr.

And what did *he* say on the subject?

(KING FOLLETT DISCOURSE)

At a funeral of a man named King Follett, just before Joseph was shot, He said:

"We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity, I will refute that idea, and take away the veil, so that you may see."

Psalms 90:2 says God is *"everlasting to everlasting,"* meaning no beginning to no end, and Joseph Smith said, *"I will refute that idea!"*

Now LDS defenders will say that the King Follett comments are sketchy because they were all recorded in personal journals.

Today, the Mormon church is attempting to PUBLICLY – PUBLICLY, distance itself from Joseph’s views on God.

They try and pass these teachings off as “couplets” or as teachings that are at best vague in the minds of the Saints.

Listen to apostle Orson Pratt’s comments in the Journal of Discourses:

“remember that God, our Heavenly Father was perhaps once a child, and mortal like ourselves, and rose step by step in the scale of progress . . .” pg 26

James Talmage, another respected Apostle for the Church said:

“God is a being who has attained His exalted state by a path which now His children are permitted to follow.”

The LDS teachings have always been, regardless of what they say publicly or infer deceptively, that God was once a man, that God had a father, who had a father, who had a father, and that man may become a God by obedience to the Laws and ordinances of the Mormon Church.

Anything less than this is deceptive.

The late Gordon B. Hinckley was living evidence of the churches leaders attempts to deceive the general masses

on these fundamental LDS teachings.

Back in 1997, in an interview with a reporter from the San Francisco Chronicle, Hinckley, instead of boldly proclaiming this fundamental LDS belief, was rather vague:

The reporter asked: *"Don't Mormon's believe that God was once a man?"*

Hinckley replied: *"I wouldn't say that. There was a little couplet coined, "AS man is, God once was. As God is, man may become." Now that's more of a couplet than anything else. That get's into some pretty deep theology we don't know very much about."*

Anyone listening to this interview would walk away with the idea that the LDS are not so firm on the position that God was once a man.

Bull-shitake mushrooms!

It is a fundamental teaching, belief, and driver in the church. Any active member would have to agree.

Then Hinckley, in an August 97 interview in Time magazine, is quoted by writer David Van Biema as saying - in regard to the doctrine that God was once a man -

"I don't know that we teach it. I don't know that we emphasize it."

You gotta be freaking kidding me?
How could he say this?

Just one year earlier, Robert Millet,

BYU professor wrote about God in the Church published magazine, The Ensign, and said:

"He is an exalted and glorified being; that He was once a man and dwelt on an earth."

President Hinckley got some heat by people for his response.

In an act of sheer duplicity, and less than a year later, he stood up in an LDS General Conference and provided a coded message that would be consistent with his public deception while at the same time support the Saints knowledge of the doctrine.

He asked:

"What is the Mormon doctrine of deity, of God?"

Then he quoted from Joseph Smith himself:

"It is the first principle of the Gospel to know for certainty the Character of God, and to know that we converse with Him as one man converses with another . . ."

Why was his using this quote duplicitous? Because he didn't finish it! And stalwart member knew it.

Had he finished it, he would have said:

"It is the first principle of the Gospel to know for certainty the Character of God, and to know that we converse with Him as one man converses with another and that He was once a man like us; yea, that God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an

earth, the same as Jesus Christ did, and I will show it from the Bible."

We'll get to the biblical verses the LDS use to support these erroneous teachings in a minute.

Naturally, if God was once a man, then God had a father – who had a father, who had a father.

This is that eternal regression of God's I spoke of earlier.

Where Christians believe God when He said

"Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any."

Joseph, once again, has lead millions to believe Him and to doubt God's Word.

President Joseph Fielding Smith wrote:

"Our Father in Heaven, according to the prophet, had a father, and since there has been a condition of this kind through all eternity, each Father had a Father . . ."
(Doctrines of Salvation)

Many years earlier, Brigham Young said in the JOD:

"How many Gods are there, I do not know. But there never was a time when there were not Gods and not worlds, and when men were passing through the same ordeals that we are now passing through."

A final and fundamental LDS teaching, which is a natural extension of the doctrine of an eternal regression of

Gods and the idea that God was once a man is the LDS teaching that men and women have the potential to become Gods too!

In June of 1993, in an article in the LDS published magazine, the Ensign, it said:

"The stunning truth, lost to mankind before the Restoration, is that each of us is a god in embryo. We may become as our heavenly parents. We, too, in exalted families, may one day preside in our own realms"

Of late, missionaries and unofficial/official spokes-apologists for the Church are claiming that the teaching is actually that people can become "like" God, instead of "a" God, a distinction they hope will add legitimacy to their claims on being Christian.

But this has never been the teaching.

Prophet Spencer W. Kimball said:

"In each of us is the potentiality to become a god – pure, holy, influential, true, and independent of all these earthly forces. We learn from scripture that each of us has an eternal existence, that we were in the beginning with God. And understanding this gives to us a unique sense of MAN'S DIGNITY."

Man's dignity!

I can't help but contemplate my dignity as a man every time I get up in the morning, stumble into the bathroom,

<p>sit down on the toilet, and look across the bathroom sink in the mirror at my rapidly deteriorating face and body.</p> <p>Glorious dignity!</p> <p>My inherent dignity just glows every time I see a woman in a swimsuit, and every time I am treated unjustly by another.</p> <p>Thank you, President Kimball for this ray of light! Why, I actually feel empowered to go and figure out how to set the clock on my VCR.</p> <p>God is emphatic, my friends, that we are lowly creations, made from the dust.</p> <p>Yes, He loves us – so much that He sent His son. But He is emphatic that we should see ourselves for what we are relative to Him, in our lowly sinful state, with broken humility and general abasement.</p> <p>Before I address the Bible verses the LDS use to justify their teachings of many God's, let's open the phone lines so our operators can start clearing the calls:</p> <p>(801) 973-8820 (801) 973-TV20</p>	
<p>I'm going to cover three, though there are maybe seven others that use similar language to convey a similar message.</p>	

<p>The three passages are</p> <p>1st Corinthians 8:5 John 10:34, and Revelation 1:6</p> <p>Let's read and review:</p> <p>First to a missionary favorite, 1st Corinthians 8:5-6</p> <p>1st Corinthians 8:5-6 <i>For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.</i></p>	<p>What is the context of these passages?</p> <p>First, Paul was talking to the people of Corinth, which was a Grecian city. It was noted for its wealth, and for the luxurious and immoral and vicious habits of the people.</p> <p>They had a pagan temple in Corinth where they would worship their pagan God's and idols and offer up sacrifices to them.</p> <p>These heathens at Corinth worshipped some gods that were supposed to dwell in heaven, some that were supposed to reside on earth, and others that presided over the inferior regions, like Pluto.</p> <p>Where Paul says "Whether in heaven," He may be alluding to the sun, moon, and stars or to the celestial deities - or to those who were supposed to reside in heaven like Jupiter, Juno, or</p>
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<p><i>Revelation 1:6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.</i></p>	<p>on earth and were called “elohims” gods.</p> <p>It’s Jesus hitting the Jews with their own logic, tying them up with reason from which they had no reply. The response has nothing to do with Men being God’s in embryo or with the fact that there are many God’s like unto Jehovah God.</p> <p>Finally, Revelation 1:6.</p> <p>This is a doozie!</p> <p>If a Latter-day Saint ever uses this on you, you are in a great position to crush them with context.</p> <p>“And hath made us kings and priests”</p> <p>This is speaking of the Royal priesthood all believers share with Jesus their King.</p> <p>“ . . .Unto God and His Father . . . ”</p> <p>And this is speaking of the believers royal priesthood coming through Jesus (God) and His Father.</p> <p>Bottom line, Revelation 1:6 further evidences that Jesus was God, because it is speaking of Him and His Father, NOT God the Father and His Father.</p> <p>Get it?</p> <p>Let’s go to the phones.</p>
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Emails	
Pastor in the Pub tonight!	
Appreciate your love, support, and prayers. God bless . . . and we'll see you next week, here on Heart of the Matter.	

<p>LIVE!</p> <p>From the “Mecca of Mormonism”</p> <p>This is HEART OF THE MATTER!</p>	<p>Show 7 Satan</p> <p>February 12th 2008</p> <p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>STREAMING VIDEO</p> <p>ANNOUNCEMENT</p>	
<p>In-the-House Tonight!</p>	
<p>Book signing!</p> <p>Last night we had a wonderful book signing out at Gift of Grace Christian Supply in Springville, Utah.</p> <p>(Details)</p> <p>Tonight, at Denny’s on 250 West and 500 South we have our regular Pastor in the Pub right after the show.</p> <p>Then in</p>	
<p>MARCH, we’ll have our monthly TRAVELING PASTOR in TOOELE!</p> <p>March 3rd Tooele!</p> <p><u>Where:</u> Denny’s at 925 North Main Street</p> <p><u>Time:</u> 6 to 8 pm come to eat and greet.</p> <p><i>What else?</i> Open water baptism – the place to be announced.</p>	
<p>So Mormon Mitt Romney abandoned the</p>	

<p>race. I sort of feel bad for him – for the person Mitt Romney – because like I’ve said before, I think he would have made a fine president and he seems to be a nice fellow.</p> <p>But it seems America was not ready to vote an active Mormon into office.</p> <p>In fact, a recent Wall Street Journal article explains mentions that the LDS church is rather dismayed at the amount of venom that still exists toward Mormonism – so much so that Americans are more willing to elect a woman or a black man into this sacred office over a faithful member of “the Church!”</p> <p>Certainly, there exists some hysteria and fear over Mormonism that is generally unwarranted, but just the facts of the LDS religious history coupled with their present-day practices seem to be enough to scare the voting public away.</p> <p>Maybe this will be enough to get the LDS leadership to renounce, and reform, and repent from the church’s insistence on supporting everything Joseph Smith claimed as truth.</p> <p>In the least, President Monson, in the least, renounce Joseph’s teachings on God the Father having a body of flesh and bone, renounce that Man can become a God, that the Pearl of Great Price is scripture, that the practice of polygamy was ever right, and embrace the biblical truth that salvation comes only by the grace of God through faith on the shed blood of Jesus – salvation meaning men and women living with God after this life.</p>	

<p>Now, let me flip the coin right over and just take a minute and make everyone happy with heart of the Matter.</p> <p>But I have a message for the Christian Pastors in Idaho and Utah.</p> <p>Teach the Word.</p> <p>The LORD said through the prophet Jeremiah:</p> <p><i>(Jeremiah 3:15) And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, <u>which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.</u></i></p> <p>Pastors are to FEED the flock with knowledge and understanding of the Word of God.</p> <p>Now in Jeremiah's day the Pastors of the Children of Israel led them astray, because they stopped teaching the Word.</p> <p>This caused them to ask in Jeremiah 15</p> <p><i>"Where is the word of the LORD? let it come now."</i></p> <p>But it never came. And Israel crumbled into desolation, forced into Babylonian captivity.</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>Jeremiah 10:21 says</p> <p><i>"For the pastors are become brutish, and have not sought the LORD: therefore they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered."</i></p> <p>Which caused the LORD to say to the Pastors</p>	<p>(GRAPHIC)</p>
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(Jer 23:1) Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!

Listen, there is no way in the world the LORD GOD is going to cause Mormonism to fall until the Christian churches in this state, and in Idaho, even in the United States, at least, have repented of their man-centered ways and start teaching the Word of God, verse by verse.

I'm not talking about using one verse and building an entire sermon on it.

I'm talking about reading through the Word of God and teaching what it says and what it means.

Burn your stinking formulas to become a mega Church.

Pray that you will choke on your entertaining, supersonic, multi-media, candy coated messages.

Vomit out your "Harry Potter is of the Devil" series and teach the WORD of God to the people.

Feed them, Pastors, and repent of the imaginations of your heart to get bigger faster.

And if you are sitting in a church that week after week is feeding you eye candy, and stories, walk the hell out, and find a church where the Pastor is a pastor – meaning He is feeding the flock with knowledge and understanding of the Word of God.

Now don't email me whining all over the place about what I've said tonight – I

<p>don't care about your justifications or proofs – JUST REPENT AND TEACH THE WORD.</p>	
<p>Okay, last week we sort of ran out of time and I had three passages from the Bible that the LDS will use to justify their “Joseph-originated” idea that God has a father who has a father who has a father.</p> <p>Before we enter into tonight’s discussion on Satan, let’s examine these passages.</p> <p>The three passages are</p> <p>1st Corinthians 8:5 John 10:34, and Revelation 1:6</p> <p>Let’s read and review:</p> <p>First to a missionary favorite, 1st Corinthians 8:5-6</p> <p>1st Corinthians 8:5-6 <i>For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.</i></p>	<p>What is the context of these passages?</p> <p>First, Paul was talking to the people of Corinth, which was a Grecian city. It was noted for its wealth, and for the luxurious and immoral and vicious habits of the people.</p> <p>They had a pagan temple in Corinth</p>

<p>6 But <u>to us</u> there is but <u>one God</u>, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.</p>	<p>where they would worship their pagan god's and idols and offer up meaty sacrifices to them.</p> <p>These heathens at Corinth worshipped some gods that were supposed to dwell in heaven, some that were supposed to reside on earth, and others that presided over the inferior regions of the cosmos, like Pluto.</p> <p>Where Paul says "Whether in heaven," he could have been alluding to the sun, moon, and stars or to their celestial deities - those that were supposed to reside in heaven like Jupiter, Juno, or Mercury.</p> <p>Where he says "or in earth" he is referring to the pagan gods (LOWER CASE G) that rule on earth, like Ceres, Neptune, etc.</p> <p>The contextual catch for this simple verse is found in verse six:</p> <p>This passage makes the discussion here consistent with the REST of the Word which teaches and preaches ONE God only.</p> <p>The next misused passage - John 10:34 - where Jesus is speaking to the Pharisees who are saying He has blasphemed by calling Himself the</p>
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<p>John 10:34 <i>"Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?"</i></p>	<p>Son of God.</p> <p>The passage quotes Jesus as saying:</p> <p>We touched on this when a caller brought it up last week.</p> <p>Jesus meets the rabbis on their own ground in a thoroughly Jewish way when He responds to them.</p> <p>First of all, the "G" in God's is lower case and it refers to Elohim, or the title of a god human or deific.</p> <p>Remember last week where we said Elohim can refer to the title of God or to men?</p> <p>Okay.</p> <p>The OT reference Jesus quotes here is in reference to human judges or magistrates, who do the work of God on earth and were called "elohah" or lower case gods.</p> <p>It's Jesus hitting the Jews with their own logic, tying them up with reason from which they had no reply. His response has nothing to do with Men being God's in embryo or with the fact that there are many God's like unto Jehovah God. The comment is almost tongue in cheek with Jesus as the Jews are irate that He has likened Himself to God and He uses the Word itself to justify this title.</p>
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Revelation 1:6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Finally, the LDS may use Revelation 1:6 to support their idea that God has great, great, great grandfathers.

This is a doozie! Listen.

If a Latter-day Saint ever uses this on you, you are in a great position to crush them with context.

“And hath made us kings and priests . . .”

This is speaking of the Royal priesthood all believers share with Jesus their King.

“ . . .Unto God and His Father . . .”

and this is speaking of the believers royal priesthood coming through Jesus (God) and His Father.

Bottom line, Revelation 1:6 is simply referring to Jesus as God, not the Father and His Father.

It is speaking of Jesus (God) and His Father (the Father).

Any and every commentator, especially those with an understanding of the Greek) completely support this view – and yet, the LDS missionaries and members will at times pull it out and use it so as to incorrectly

	<p>support Joseph's fantasy doctrine.</p> <p>Get it?</p> <p>All right, let's have a Word of Prayer.</p>
Prayer Prayer Prayer Prayer Prayer	
	<p>On a radio program here in Salt Lake City, after presidential candidate Mitt Romney announced that he was quitting the race, talk show host _____ made the comment – the ridiculous comment – that Romney lost the republican nod because Huckabee publicly said <i>"Don't Mormon's believe that Jesus and the devil are brothers?"</i></p> <p>In light of LDS teachings and doctrine, what was wrong with the question?</p> <p>As mentioned, Latter-day Saints believe that every single human being that has lived, is living, or will live on this earth "pre-existed" in a spirit world prior to coming to this earth.</p> <p>All of these spirits were formed by God (and his wife or wives) out of intelligent spirit-matter which, according to Joseph Smith, Jr., have always existed as some kind of spiritual intelligence.</p> <p>According to the Pearl of Great Price – a book of scripture the LDS hold as viable as the Bible – and the revelations of Joseph Smith – God (the father) gathered these intelligences in some unknown way,</p>

and formed spirit children out of them.

Among these spirit children were those that were at the top of the glory pyramid (“exceedingly bright and exceptional”) and then all the rest of these spirit beings sort of trail down in gradations of glory.

The brightest of these spirit formations was Jesus, who followed closely by a being the LDS call “Lucifer,” which means “Son or Star of the Morning or Morning Star or Day Star.”

Then the most grand Patriarchs and prophets like Abraham were put together, followed by leaders in the Mormon Church, members of the Mormon church here on earth, and then the rest of the inhabitants of earth.

As a point of pure conjecture among many LDS leaders, teachers and members, it was long assumed – at least when I was a member and before – that black people were a compilation of the lowest spirit intelligences in the cosmos.

When people ask: *“Isn’t the Devil the brother of Jesus in Mormonism?”* this is to what they are referring.

And yes, they are spirit brothers – like the rest of us – are spirit brothers and sisters of Jesus . . . and the being who was once called Lucifer.

	<p>Now to the LDS, this teaching is perfectly reasonable.</p> <p>Since Jesus Himself was a spirit child of God the Father – a created being – then all the rest of the myth-characters make sense.</p> <p>Jesus was a created spirit child, Lucifer was a created spirit child, we were created spirit children.</p> <p>To the Christian ear, however, the idea is categorically reprehensible.</p> <p>You see, Bible believing Christians have read the manual and understand Jesus according to its descriptions, not the interpretations of Man.</p> <p>And the Bible is manifestly clear that Jesus is an uncreated being, that He was in the beginning, the Alpha and Omega, and that He, in fact, created all things.</p> <p>All things.</p> <p>To put Him in the same class as the Devil or Man or Angels is just unconscionable to regenerated Christians.</p> <p>Now take a moment and ask yourself:</p> <p>Does the doctrine of Jesus being our spirit brother make you want to worship Him more or less than the doctrine that He is God who created all things, then came down and offered Himself for you and your</p>
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	<p>sins?</p> <p>What teaching causes more adoration for the Lord in your heart, and what teaching legitimizes Him more in your heart?</p> <p>(BEAT)</p> <p>Now after the supposed creation of Jesus, and this spirit being they called Lucifer, and the rest of us, the LDS continue forward with the pre-existence fable by stating that in order for all of us spirit children to have the opportunity to progress, God the Father presented a plan where we would all get to come to earth and get bodies, and thereby learn to walk by faith; returning to live with Him again if we are found faithful at the end of our mortal probation.</p> <p>Lucifer, not liking God's plan, came up with a plan of his own whereby he would come down to earth and force all of God's children to comply to the rules so that no one would be lost. Then, as a result of his great work in forcing all of God's children back to heaven, he - Lucifer - would get all the glory.</p> <p>Jesus offered to come to earth and give His life as a ransom for sin and to give people the freedom to choose.</p> <p>God rejected Lucifer's proposal, and the spirit children of God divided - two thirds going with God and one third of them rebelling with Lucifer.</p>
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A war in heaven broke out and in the end, Lucifer and his angels lost, and Lucifer, being cast down to earth with his angels, became "Satan" or the Devil, who spends all his time and energy trying to get human beings who did not follow him and his plan, to sin and fight against God the Father.

Now, allow me to talk about this name "Lucifer" for a moment.

In the Old Testament, there is a passage in Isaiah (14:12) which reads:

"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!"

Joseph Smith took this Bible passage, applied the name to Satan, incorporated the name into the story of his falling in the pre-existence, and has gotten the LDS to commonly refer to Satan, prior to his fall from grace, as Lucifer.

This is not such a big deal as many Christians made the same error in thinking that a pre-earth name for Satan was Lucifer based on the same passage.

The problem lies in the fact that Joseph did not teach referentially or as a process of discovery, but taught that his insights came directly from God, and are therefore not subject to revision.

But the context of this verse is explicitly speaking about Nebuchadnezzar and the text says nothing at all concerning Satan, nor his fall, nor his name ever being Lucifer.

In fact, "Lucifer" means "day star," and this is a title that truly belongs to Christ - "the bright and morning star" of Revelation 22.

So where do *Christians* think Satan came from? What does the Bible have to say on the topic, and how do the LDS use biblical passages to support their extra-biblical beliefs?

When it comes to the topic of Satan, Christians know very little about his origins, and what we do know in reference to Him is quite inconclusive.

When a person or institution claims to have most of the answers to the unknown, it's time to be very cautious of that person or institution.

Now, there are nine verses in the book of Ezekiel that many Christians believe speak of Satan – his beginnings, and what placed him as the darkness of this world.

Literally, these passages are NOT about Satan, but are about the King of Tyre, as the chapter before where these verses are found predict the fall of Tyre.

<p>Ezekiel 28:11 ¶ Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,</p> <p>12 Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.</p> <p>13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.</p> <p>14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.</p> <p>15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.</p> <p>16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.</p> <p>17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy</p>	<p>But it is possible, like many other passages of scripture in the Old Testament, that there is a secondary application of these passages (even a tertiary) and that they speak to who Satan was and is.</p> <p>Let's read them.</p>
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beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

18 Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.

19 All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.

The name means “adversary” and “accuser” and “the adversary.”

In the New Testament “Satan” is used interchangeably with “Diabolos,” or the devil, more than thirty times.

He is also called “the dragon,” and “the old serpent” in Revelation 12:9; 20:2, “the prince of this world” in John 12:31 and 14:30, “the prince

Much of this could be applied to Satan. But in the end, Christians do not have a definitive answer as to the exact origins of him.

Most believe he was a cherubim – an angel - who, because of pride, fell from grace and the service of God in heaven.

I personally believe these passages in Ezekiel speak to both the King of Tyre and to Satan’s existence and fall.

Now this is what the Word says about Satan.

of the power of the air" in Ephesians 2:2, "the god of this world" in 2nd Corinthians 4:4, and "the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" in Ephesians 2:2.

He is also called "*Beelzebub, the prince of the devils*" (Mt 12:24).

His power is very great in the world. He is described as a "*roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour*" (1Pe 5:8). and people are said to be "*taken captive by him*" (2Ti 2:26).

Christians are warned against his "*devices*" (2Co 2:11), and called on to "*resist*" him (James 4:7).

Hebrews interestingly says that he "*had the power of death,*" (Hebrews 2:14).

We know from Corinthians that Satan can transform himself into an angel of light.

We also know he can work all sorts of powers and wonders.

Christians also know from the Book of Job that Satan answers to God – as rebellious and independent as he is – and that he must be obedient to God's rule and will . . . but that God allows Satan to test and tempt and try human kind.

There are several Bible verses the LDS use to support their teachings that Satan was a created spirit just like Jesus (and just like us) who fell from God's presence after a war in heaven.

In addition to Isaiah 14:12, these other verses include:

Job 38:7
Revelation 12:7
And 2nd Peter 2:4

Let's take a quick look at them
before we go to the phones.

In Job 38:7, God asks Job where he
was in the beginning. He asks,
"Where were you . . . ?"

*"When the morning stars sang together,
and all the sons of God shouted for
joy?"*

To the LDS mind, this is evidence
that there was a pre-existence, that a
plan was presented, which caused
the *"sons of God"* to *"shout for joy."*

Strangely, some LDS believe that
God's question of Job, "Where were
you when the morning stars sang
together for joy" was God
reminding Job that he was in fact,
there?!

But to Christians, the phrase, *"Where
were you when the morning stars sang
together"* was God referring to
angels - who are a creation all
together different than man - and
was God's way of telling Job, *"wake
up, dude. You weren't even around,
yet."*

If Job had have been there when the
"morning stars sang together" and
"the Sons of God shouted," he
would have told God - "I was
there!"

	<p>I mean, doesn't this make sense?</p> <p>Interestingly enough, the Chaldee has, "<i>All the troops of angels</i>," instead of the phrase "<i>And all the Sons of God shouted</i>."</p> <p>Now the word is replete with references to angels being a different order, and having been created at a different time than man.</p> <p>We know there are angels that exist to merely praise God, to endlessly shout "<i>Holy, Holy, Holy</i>" and that they are organized into troops and a hierarchy, so their existence as part of heaven is plausible.</p> <p><i>Next</i> we have a great set of verses that the LDS use to confirm the fable of their being involved in this war in heaven.</p> <p>Now, it is nice to take passages and apply them to whatever you want.</p> <p>The passages in Revelation 12 are taken out of context and used to support Joseph's tall tales!</p> <p>Listen:</p> <p>Revelation 12:7-9</p> <p><i>And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,</i></p>
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8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

First and foremost, there are all sorts of interpretations of what this passage means – especially in light of the Book of Revelation. And the meanings are profoundly scriptural with all ignoring the LDS idea of it being a pre-existent war.

But even – *even* – if there was a war in heaven before the world was, these passages do not mean we were there!

This was the great skill of Joseph – to take a verse or set of verse, remove them from their context, and use them as a proof text for his imaginative teachings.

A final verse the LDS missionaries may use is 2nd Peter 2:4 says

“ . . . God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.”

Naturally the LDS view this passage as more support for their teaching of a pre-existent war involving all humanity.

<p><i>First time caller! LDS first! Turn your TV's down and have a question/comment ready.</i></p>	<p>It is no mystery that God spared not the angels that sinned against Him nor that He will deliver them into chains of darkness, but like the other verses from the Bible, these passages do not support the extra-biblical ideas taught be Joseph Smith.</p> <p>The topic of Satan and Jesus being spiritual brothers in a pre-existence in which we all shared is not an exciting one, but it had to be covered so as to present the next segment of Joseph's Myths -</p> <p>the Garden of Eden and the Fall.</p> <p>We'll cover this next week. Should be good.</p> <p>All right, let's go to the phones:</p> <p>(801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p>
<p>Emails?</p>	

<p>Pastor in the Pub!</p> <p>LORDSWORD</p> <p>March 3rd Traveling Pastor (Tooele!)</p>	

<p>LIVE! From the Mecca of Mormonism:</p> <p>- SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH! -</p> <p>... this is Heart of the Matter ...</p>	<p>Show 11 The Fall Part II March 4th 2008</p> <p>And I'm Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
LIVE STREAMING VIDEO	
IN THE HOUSE	
<p>Report on Tooele Traveling Pastor</p> <p>Last night we held our monthly traveling pastor in Tooele.</p> <p>We met at the Denny's out there and had a great group.</p> <p>Baptisms?</p>	<p>(show Video)</p> <p>Hey, just to let you know, our up and coming Traveling Pastor's get together's are going to be as follows:</p> <p>(SHOW GRAPHIC)</p> <p>April 7th American Fork May 5th St. George June 23rd Manti at the Manti Pagent July 7th Park City August 4th Logan NO SEPTEMBER - Heart in the Park October 6th Provo November 3rd Ogden December 4th our 2nd Annual Christmas Open House!</p> <p>Go to www.bornagainmormon.com for a</p>

	listing of these dates and places.
<p>Hey, on Friday evening, April 11th and Saturday, April 12th there is going to be an outstanding Bible Conference coming to town.</p> <p>“Rooted and Raised in Truth”</p> <p>Now there is a cost to this event, but I think it would be well worth it for the experience and knowledge.</p> <p>Fantastic Qualified Speakers out of Texas</p> <p>Lunch Breakfast Free Parking at the E Center</p> <p>Call 801 280-8747 or email info@aletheiatruth.com</p>	

<p>Some of you may or many not be aware of this but if you go online and do a Yahoo or Google search under my name</p> <p>Shawn McCraney or Bornagainmormon</p> <p>You will discover a whole host of video clips which have been taken and placed on places like Youtube, Godtube, and all sorts of other video hosting sites.</p> <p>It is truly amazing. Our gratitude to our supporters who have taken the time to edit and post portions of our shows online – especially you, Andreas.</p> <p>As the ministry takes off and gets more and more known around the world, there are more and more detractors popping up, especially since the LDS leadership has told its membership to step forward online and defend their faith.</p> <p>Somebody recently made me aware of a Latter-day Saint who took the LDS apostles request to heart.</p> <p>We thought we'd share with you tonight what some LDS are doing to defend their faith.</p> <p>(PLAY YOUTUBE "Shawn McFlakey")</p> <p>I think the video speaks for itself.</p>	
<p>Lot's of video clips tonight, folks.</p>	

Last week, a caller named _____ and I went the rounds on “knowing” and on who truly knows Jesus and how this knowledge actually plays out in their lives.

In the end, the caller was defending a relativist, postmodern position which essentially erases all claims for absolute truth and instead presents to the world this idea that “your way is fine and my way is fine and nothing is black and nothing is white.”

“We’re just all alright.”

Now, much of this attitude within Christianity is the fault of Christianity itself – and in my opinion, it has occurred as a direct result of pastors and preachers turning away from teaching the Word effectively to their people.

Never the less, a postmodern attitude exists in this world and I suppose always will.

Amazingly enough, Hollywood has presented us with a dramatic scene where a dying man, who is seeking for some absolute truth in the face of death, has a meeting with a female postmodern pastor who, like our caller last week, could not give Him any real truth upon which he could rely.

Take a look from this scene from ER:

(Play ER clip)

Since the beginning of our ministry the greatest personal frustration I've had has been in relation to the LDS claim that my experience in Mormonism was "defective" and that the things I say about modern-day Mormonism simply don't exist.

"Why I've been a member of the Church all my life, Shawn" they will say in a kindly voice of compassion, "and I've never seen or heard anything like that before."

Because the doctrines we present are "provable" and are almost always in print somewhere, their denials are usually in reference to the "attitudes and general opinions" the Saints maintain and share within their ranks.

From my experience, I will claim the LDS are spiritually arrogant, but they will claim they are only "confident" in the truths they have come to know.

I will say they have "hidden agenda's" or that they do not speak the truth publicly. Then they will claim that they only share what people can understand.

Last week we received a call from a man who identified himself as John. He said he was from Illinois and served in a ward Bishopric.

Because of John's tone, I think he was legitimate and represented a stalwart

member of the LDS church.

It was the call I had been waiting to receive on the air for two years.

You see, there is a public persona which most LDS maintain and then there is an attitude they will exhibit to one another, or to those who are in “the know” or the elect.

I suggest that their history of persecution, the political environment existing within the Church, the secret temple rites, and the “us verses them” mentality with the outside world has served to promote and perfect this public/private persona.

Finally, last week, we had an LDS caller somehow forget that he was talking on live television.

Before we watch the clip of John’s call, I’d like you to listen for a few things in the tape:

First, listen to the tone John has in his voice. This is a learned tone, shared by most LDS men who sincerely believe that they actually represent God’s priesthood here on earth.

They use it like a tool.

Second, listen to John’s references. To whom does he say I will be ashamed?

Joseph Smith.

To whom does he say I will look up

<p>and see from outer darkness?</p> <p>Joseph Smith.</p> <p>To whom does he say's face will be shining like the noon day sun?</p> <p>You got it. Why didn't John mention Jesus? Because He is not truly in the collective LDS heart.</p> <p>Finally, when I countered and questioned John, when I refused to accept his claim to being a high priest, and frankly shoved it right back in his face, what did John do?</p> <p>He spoke the abundance of his heart, that's what he did.</p> <p>He revealed the secret contents of his very LDS heart.</p> <p>Watch and hear.</p> <p>... You know, people have criticized us for saying that Mormonism is not as it seems.</p> <p>That Mormonism doesn't deserve a United States President.</p> <p>They tell us we are hateful, that we are bigoted, that we are dangerous because we just don't embrace Mormonism and "all the good it does."</p> <p>I'm telling you, having been in the religion for forty years solid – the organization called Mormonism –</p>	<p>(ROLL SEGMENT FROM LAST WEEK)</p>
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<p>from the roots of Joseph Smith up – is founded on the ideas of Man and is nothing but humanism in disguise.</p> <p>It is the best of humanism – and the worst.</p> <p>Their general intent is to overtake then govern the world, if not by loving persuasion, then by might.</p>	
<p>Let's have a Word with the Lord.</p>	<p>Lord, they say we are unfair – but we try our best to share only your truths.</p> <p>They say we are anti-Mormon, Lord, but we simply want the LDS to experience the saving Grace of Jesus.</p> <p>Lord, they say we are evil – they threaten us and mock us and try us. But we pray tonight, Lord, that you will open eyes and ears and hearts of those seeking your truth in their lives.</p> <p>This is our hope.</p> <p>In Jesus name.</p>
<p>Last week we continued to speak about the Fall.</p> <p>We talked about the LDS view that Adam had to sin to bring about God's wishes and we said this was not so.</p> <p>We explained that to the LDS way of thinking, that God gave Adam two commandments – to multiply and replenish the earth with children and to not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil – and that in their</p>	

teachings, the only way to obey the one was to disobey the other.

In other words, the only way Adam and Eve would know how to multiply was to eat of the tree, which would give them the knowledge on how to do it.

We received a really insightful call from _____ who pointed out that God had commanded the animals to multiply and replenish the earth prior to the fall too.

Again, was this an empty command on God's part or were the animals capable of carrying out God's will obediently?

Finally, we asked a question:

If eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil was a good thing as the LDS claim, and would enable Adam and Eve to create bodies for the spirits in heaven, WHY would Satan tempt Eve to eat of the fruit, knowing full well that in so doing, God's plan would be put into effect.

It makes no sense.

Before we discuss this "fall upward" as the LDS call it, or whether they transgressed or sinned, and how the LDS interpretation of the Fall plays out into their ideas on salvation, the virgin birth, etc., there is an area I have to cover tonight or I will not be doing you the viewer justice:

It's called the Adam God Doctrine.

	<p>Now, let me make some things perfectly clear:</p> <p>I am sharing this teaching with you but the LDS have - HAVE - renounced this teaching.</p> <p>They have?</p> <p>Yes, amazingly enough, they have publicly renounced the teaching of the Adam/God doctrine (or what they call the Adam/God Theory).</p> <p>"So why would you be talking about this teaching?" you might ask.</p> <p>By the time were done, you will understand.</p>
<p>Now this teaching, which was introduced by Brigham Young to the Church, has been a miserable doctrine to Mormonism's desire for legitimacy.</p> <p>They have attempted to say and do all sorts of things to make it seem like it was never "really" taught, or that it was never really doctrine, or that it was never really understood in the way it was intended.</p> <p>After you hear the facts - you tell us whether it was really taught or intended or not - okay?</p> <p>Now, obviously, the Adam/God doctrine stands against the Bible - completely.</p> <p>But admittedly, it also stands against</p>	

the Book of Mormon.

Church President Spencer W. Kimball publicly stated that the Adam/God doctrine was “false doctrine” even though it was taught as true doctrine by Brigham Young for over 19 years and was embraced by the church for fifty years!

Now I challenge you to go and read for yourselves what this doctrine was about.

Go to UTLM.org and read the actual reproduced photocopies of it or go to the Journal of Discourses (volume 1) and read it directly from the source.

What did Brigham Young say or teach in this false doctrine?

In a sermon he said:

“Now hear it, O inhabitants of the earth, Jew and Gentile. Saint and sinner! When our father Adam came into the garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body, and brought Eve, one of his wives, with him. He helped to make and organize this world. He is Michael, the Archangel, the Ancient of Days! about whom holy men have written and spoken – he is our father and our God, and the only God with whom we have to do!”

Now listen, all alone, this is a preposterous statement, but this

teaching was not a singular outlandish alip of the tongue for Young, serving as the prophet, seer, and revelator of the Church. It was a taught by him repeatedly, AND it was embraced by the LDS faithful throughout their lives.

Brigham Young also made the claim that once he has spoken, and then corrected anything errant, his words were SCRIPTURE. But he never corrected anything about his Adam/God teachings throughout his life, so he was presenting this teaching as THE WORD OF GOD.

LDS defenders today try and say it was never taught as doctrine, or that Brigham never intended it to be.

But a year after he delivered this sermon on Adam God, it was printed in the LDS Millennial Star and was then reproduced in the JOD where Brigham Young completely endorsed it.

In fact, Young was still teaching the Adam/God doctrine over two decades later.

It seems the people were having some trouble accepting this teaching (praise God) which caused Young to say on June 18th 1873:

“How much unbelief exists in the minds of Latter-day Saints in regard to one particular DOCTRINE which I revealed to them and which GOD REVEALED TO ME . . . namely, that Adam is our Father and our God.”

Later in the speech, he has Adam explain himself (in part) by saying:

"I want my children to are in the spirit world to come and live here. I once dwelt on an earth something like this, in a mortal state. I was faithful. I received my crown and exaltation (meaning He became a God). I have the privilege of extending my work, and to its increase there will be no end. I want my children that were born to me in the spirit world to come and take tabernacles of flesh, that their spirits may have a house, a tabernacle or a dwelling place as mine has, and where is the mystery."

Prominent LDS leader F.D Richards said in the Millenial Star:

"Concerning the doctrine that Adam is our Father and God . . . the prophet and apostle Brigham has declared it, and that is the word of the Lord."

George Q Cannon said: *"Jesus Christ is Jehovah and Adam is His Father and our God."*

Hosea Stout in his journal wrote:

"Another meeting this evening. Brigham Young taught that Adam was the Father of Jesus and the only God to us."

In the Minutes from the LDS School of the Prophets, ten to fifteen years after Brigham Young first taught the Adam/God doctrine, LDS member A.F. McDonald wrote:

" . . . when I first heard the doctrine of Adam being our Father and God, I was favorably impressed – enjoyed and hailed it as "new revelation – it appeared reasonable to me as the father of our spirits, that he should introduce us here."

I think this quote brings out an important point which needs to be understood about the Adam/God teaching, now refuted by the LDS as false.

That is, the teaching was that Adam, whose true identity was Michael above, had once been a man on another world and had reached Godhood through his faithfulness.

He had acquired many wives who were sealed to him in this earlier life, and in our pre-existent state, which was his celestial glory state, he procreated spirit children with these wives.

Then he – as Michael – came to earth with a celestial body with one of his wives, became Adam, fell upward purposefully, and then with Eve began to procreate physical bodies for their spirit children waiting above.

This was the teaching, by the Mormon prophet, which was considered truth, and embraced by the LDS people under his care, as doctrine from God.

And herein lies the rub.

First, Brigham, as the Prophet of the LDS believers either told them an eternal truth or he told them a lie.

Which would mean Spencer W Kimball, as the Prophet of the LDS believers, either told us the truth, or he told us a lie.

In either case, the machinations of Man have lead the LDS people astray.

Second, listen to the Mormonicious way in which Spencer W. Kimball recinds the Adam/God doctrine.

There are two key words here that make this statement categorically insidious.

In the October 9th 1976 Church News, Kimball said:

“We warn you against the dissemination of doctrines which are not according to scriptures and which are *alleged* to have been taught by some of the general authorities of past generations. Such, for instance, is the Adam/God *theory*. We denounce that theory and hope that everyone will be cautious against this and other kinds of false doctrine.”

SO while it is perfectly acceptable for men like Brigham Young to teach whatever the hell inspires them as truth, and then it is the right of men like Spencer W. Kimball to

retroactively denounce what they have said as false, who loses in this game of doctrinal and authoritative masturbation?

Those who believe either of them.

My friends – my LDS brothers and sisters – there was a time when good (in the sense the world sees good) and hardworking men and women walked this earth believing that Adam was the literal Father of their spirits.

And then there came a time when an LDS prophet said this was a lie – that it was false!

What is the lesson?
Walk from this MAN -ipulation and turn to the Word of God for truth.

Turn to Jesus Christ.

Call out to Him.

Make Him, and your faith in Him and Him alone the focal point of your temporal and spiritual lives.

Turn your will and ways over to Him.

You don't need me or this show.

You don't need Joseph, or Brigham, or Thomas, or their standard works – you need Him.

And His Word.

Let's open up the phones:

<p>(801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p> <p>Emails:</p>	
<p>Conclusion:</p> <p>Lordsword</p> <p>See you next week, here on Heart of the Matter.</p>	<p>(Graffice for Lord'sword)</p>

<p>LIVE! From the “Mecca of Mormonism”</p> <p>- SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH -</p> <p><i>This is Heart of the Matter!</i></p>	<p>Show 12 State of the Ministry March 11th 2008</p> <p>And I’m your host, Shawn McCraney.</p>
LIVE STREAMING VIDEO ANNOUNCEMENT	
IN-THE-HOUSE TONIGHT	
<p>“I Was A Born-Again Mormon”</p>	<p>Where it can be purchased:</p> <p>Gift of Grace Christian Supply in Springville</p> <p>Utah Lighthouse Ministry</p> <p>Christian Gift and Bible</p> <p>Lifeway books in Murray</p> <p>Oasis Books in Logan</p> <p>Online at www.bornagainmormon.com</p>
LORD’SWORD VIDEO	<p>Last week, on Monday March 3rd, held our monthly traveling pastor meeting in Tooele.</p> <p>Pastor Pillow graciously opened up his church _____ and prepared the baptismal font for our use and two people - Tanya and Glenn -</p>

	<p>made public professions of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and were baptized.</p> <p>Let's take a look –</p> <p>(Show video)</p> <p>We've received quite a bit of criticism from people over our stance on baptism.</p> <p>Let me remind you of it so you can criticize us too –</p> <p>We believe in baptism (obviously) And believe it is a good thing for people to do who are seeking to follow the Lord.</p> <p>We believe that baptism is a true public profession of faith.</p> <p>We do not believe baptism saves a person.</p> <p>We do not believe people are baptized into a denomination or that it is used as a way to obtain “membership status” in any group or institution.</p> <p>When we say, “no questions asked” on our website, we mean no questions regarding a persons worthiness to obtain or participate in it.</p> <p>Hope this helps.</p> <p>We praise God for the blessing to help people express their faith in Him through this beautifully symbolic and significant rite.</p>

PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER	
<p>I am going to take a minute and bear my soul.</p> <p>It is important to share with you openly and honestly so you have the opportunity to know of our intentions and purposes.</p> <p>Last week we had a caller from Illinois who claimed he was LDS.</p> <p>He called himself John.</p> <p>There are many things John said that make me think – along with most of our other viewers (especially those who have been LDS) – that John truly is who he claims to be.</p> <p>One of the things John asked last week (which is very typical of many accusatory LDS callers or emailers) was “What sins had I personally committed in my life which would cause me to “turn against the Church.”</p> <p>I told John that I had committed all of them.</p>	

<p>I think this is a good time to lay out something's we haven't covered for a while here on Heart of the Matter that may help our newer viewers understand the intents and purposes of our show and ministry.</p>	
<p>I worship daily at the throne of a sovereign God and King.</p> <p>I am His servant and slave.</p> <p>He has not only freed me from the bondage of sin and death, but from the shackles of philosophy, the confines of ritualistic religious traditions, and the manipulations of Man.</p> <p>As an LDS boy, teen, young man, and adult, I struggled greatly between two polarized inclinations.</p> <p>On the one hand, I had an endless thirst for knowing and pleasing God – really. I've always wanted to know Him.</p> <p>On the other hand, I was inclined toward all things of the flesh.</p> <p>If you thought I was self-willed, lustful, greedy, angry, violent, impetuous, and full of revenge you would have been correct.</p> <p>Mormonism constantly reminded me that those inclinations were faulty, but the only <i>true</i> solution to my nature (a regenerative relationship with Jesus Christ) was never presented to me as the first and final cure.</p>	

The Church was the cure.

My activity in it.

My allegiance to it.

My obedience to the “laws and ordinances of the LDS gospel” was the solution.

You see, as a member of the Church, I was always the one who was failing and falling short.

I was always the one who couldn’t measure up to the stalwarts.

I was always the one who was “morally inferior,” “emotionally challenged,” from a “less active family” or who was “occupationally different.”

And let me make something clear right here and now – they were right.

I was.

I was morally inferior and I was to blame.

Who can justify anger and rage and violence and lust or greed?

Certainly God won’t! I couldn’t!

But the real question is not “what was the problem with Shawn McCraney?” The real question was “What is the solution for the Shawn McCraney’s of this world?”

Get it?

The LDS are not wrong in claiming that people like me are weak and sinful, but the solution they offer people like me was absolutely unacceptable and ineffective.

Scouting and primary isn't for every wayward boy. But they suggest it is.

Dress-codes and institutionalized rules of conduct may work well for some people with high serotonin levels, but what about the rebels, the disaffected?

Joseph Smith's Word of Wisdom is fine and dandy, but what about those good hearted souls who love coffee, or tea, or a beer or cigarette every now and again?

Are they banished by God like they are banished by the Church members?

Mormons would lead you to believe this is so!

To what lengths will Mormonism go to embrace those who are morally corrupt?

Do they, like Jesus did, accept people who live at odds with their man-made standards?

What actually happens interpersonally and corporately when villainous coffee drinkers, cigarette smokers, and left wing

democrats visit what they say is the Saviors Church?

Will they love and accept them as the Savior would and did?

Will they give them callings of responsibility?

Will the stalwarts let their children hang out with reprobates?

Realizing that no matter how hard I tried, I could not relate to the "Portrait of Authority" placed in front of me every week in priesthood and Bishopric meeting.

No matter how hard I tried, I did not see or find the Jesus I read about in the Bible manifested in the week to week actions of this Church that claimed truth.

Other men and women and their families *seemed* to be able to live up to the Mormonism around me – but I couldn't.

And I witnessed first hand how men and women were treated who were of a similar ilk.

I remember seeing forty-five and fifty-five year old men sitting in classes all alone with Elders who were eighteen and twenty – because they drank coffee in the morning.

Yet there were some of the most mean-spirited jack-holes in the world elevated to the High Priests

group because they towed the party line.

All religious organizations have good and bad people in them, but Mormonism has a built-in worthiness screening that serves to elevate the accomplished and ostracize the different, the struggling, and the lost.

Then I started reading the Bible . . . I read things like:

1st Corinthians 1:23

But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness.

Huh, I thought. “The solution of the crucified Christ is thought of as foolishness.” Interesting.

I read where it says:

“But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence.”

“Wow,” I thought, “that fits me perfectly. I have nothing in which I could glory.”

Then I remembered an illustration Jesus gave in Luke (18) where He said:

"Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself,

"God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess."

And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying,

"God be merciful to me a sinner."

I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

"Huh?" I said to myself, "this doesn't sound like the gospel message I've been fed my whole life . . . a message where I need to be the righteous and holy one in order for God to save me.

A message where I am saved by grace . . . after all that I can do!" Why . . . why, this message sounds like we our righteousness is nothing before God and in humility we see ourselves as truly sinful and pleading for God to save us IN OUR SINFUL STATE. "

So long story short, I was introduced to a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

A relationship that transcends

<p>religion, and rules, and my worthiness, but brings His righteousness to the forefront of the situation, causing me – for the first time in my life – to salute and bow and acquiesce, and worship something other than myself – JESUS.</p> <p>A relationship that actually empowered - and empowers - me to live righteously.</p> <p>A relationship that frees me from the bondage of religion allowing me to serve and worship the true, living, sovereign God.</p>	
<p>So I look around, and I ask myself:</p> <p>“Was I alone in the LDS Church?”</p> <p>“Was I the only reprobate who was lost?”</p> <p>No.</p> <p>“Was I the only one who didn’t fully connect to Mormonism while I faithfully served it?”</p> <p>No.</p> <p>“Are the searching LDS offered the only solution to the institutions inability to fix them or bring them peace – even a regenerative relationship with Jesus Christ?”</p> <p>No, they are not.</p> <p>Then the LORD told me to do something about it.</p>	

<p>And so we call out to those of you who have long sat in the LDS meetings and wondered if “that is all there is?”</p> <p>We call out to you with the promise of hope that awaits all who seek for Truth.</p> <p>We call out to those of you who do not have peace in Mormonism, who have not been accepted in Mormonism, who cannot or will not live as they tell you to live – but who want to know God personally and intimately.</p> <p>We call to you. And we offer you a solution to that thing called yourself.</p> <p>We offer you what He offered over two thousand years ago and what He continues to offer everyone on earth today – His blood, His Life, and His liberty.</p> <p>Has the ministry been effective in reaching people with this message of true freedom in Jesus Christ?</p> <p>Before we go to the phones, let me cite a few emails we have gathered together over the last four weeks.</p>	

<p>Let's open the phones:</p> <p>(801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p> <p>Prefer LDS callers. Want first time callers only unless you are LDS. Turn your televisions down. Have a statement or question ready.</p>	
<p>LORD'SWORD</p> <p>Sundays 9:15-10:15 in the Gateway Megaplex Theaters</p> <p>7-8pm at the university of Utah</p> <p>Go to www.lordsword.org for more information.</p> <p>See you next week here on Heart of the Matter.</p>	

	Show 13 Conclusion to The Fall March 18 th 2008
LIVE! From the Mecca of Mormonism - Salt Lake City, Utah - This is Heart of the Matter!	And I'm Shawn McCraney, your host.
Streaming Video Announcement	
In-The-House Tonight!	
Traveling Pastor!	<p>Alright, American Fork, we're coming out your way.</p> <p>When: Monday, April 7th 2008 Where: Why:</p> <p>Hope to see you all there!</p> <p>Other up and coming Traveling Pastors this year?</p> <p>(GRAPHIC)</p>
ALATHEA MINISTRIES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER!	(GRAPHIC?)

<p>Last week I read a from a few success stories which are always heartening to hear.</p> <p>Let me take a moment and give you a word of encouragement – a cause to “hope.”</p> <p>The Lord works in mysterious ways and in my opinion – especially in relation to Mormonism – the Lord brings families to him one person at a time.</p> <p>Nearly two years ago a woman came to know the Lord. You might recognize her name – “Lucy from Logan.”</p> <p>Lucy allowed the Lord in her life and stood as a lone Christian for a while.</p> <p>A few months ago, Lucy’s daughter Margaret received Him too and has since caught on fire for Him and His Word.</p> <p>Well just last week Lucy’s other daughter Kathryn, who was at one time contemplating the marriage invitations of a polygamist in Southern Utah, did the same.</p> <p>His work, His joy, and His truth spreads from heart to heart in people who trust Him and seek Him in their lives.</p> <p>We rejoice with you, our sister Kathryn.</p>	
<p>There are a few consistencies we hear from the LDS regarding our ministry and televised programs.</p>	

<p>One of the claims is the LDS Church – its leaders and missionaries and members - respect all religions, cultures, and faiths.</p> <p>Time and time again LDS people here on the show say that Latter-day Saints never attack other religions nor do they speak against them.</p> <p>I want to give you two sources that refute such a claim.</p> <p>First, I received a link to www.lds.org which presents a fantastic summary of quotes LDS leaders offer AGAINST other churches and religions.</p> <p>Secondly, I recently received a copy of a Salt Lake Tribune article which reveals the bigoted actions of some LDS missionaries – young men who represent both Mormonism and the Lord to the world.</p>	<p><i>(show article or photographs from the article).</i></p>

PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER	
So we've talked about the pre-existence of LDS theology, the nature of God, the	

<p>trinity verses polytheism, Satan, the location of the Garden of Eden, and two weeks on the LDS views regarding the Fall of Adam.</p> <p>We're going to conclude tonight with a wrap-up of LDS teachings which are a direct by-product of their teachings on the Fall and which also are in direct opposition to what the Bible says.</p> <p>These LDS "by-product beliefs" include:</p> <p>Their doctrines on the sin nature of humankind.</p> <p>Their doctrine and understanding of spiritual rebirth, and</p> <p>The conception of the Lord Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Let's address these one by one.</p>	
<p>Because the Fall of Adam was a good thing – a "fall upward," as LDS teachers and leaders and prone to call it – and was a necessary event in order for Adam and Eve to know how to procreate – the children of Adam and Eve – you and I – are NOT born sinful, but are instead born innocent, pure, and literally children of God from the start.</p> <p>Along with very humanist thought, the popular LDS hymn reinforces this idea:</p> <p><i>I am a child of God. And He has sent me here. Has given me an earthly home. With parents kind and dear.</i></p> <p>People who believe in a higher power but</p>	

lacking exposure or understanding of the Bible generally come to a similar conclusion regarding God and our relationship to Him.

It is normative to assume that us “human beings” are so lovely and attractive that God can’t help but automatically call us His Children.

But in this, the Bible does not tell us so.

Rather the opposite.

John 1:12 *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

Galatians 3:26 *For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.*

1st John 3:1 *Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.*

Romans 8:14 *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

The Bible is manifestly clear that nobody (save Jesus Christ) has ever been born a “son or child” of God by right or as an heir, but they ONLY become such when they arrive by faith in believing in the Jesus.

The LDS interpretation is “another gospel” and is perhaps one of the most dangerous and misleading core teachings of the

religion.

Now because the LDS believe that everyone on earth is born a child or son of God, they reject the Bible teaching that human beings are born in sin.

Psalms 51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Job 5:7 Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.

Psalms 58:3 The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

Ephesians 2:3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

And Jesus said plainly to Nicodemus:

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Let me make a clarification here:

Little children are born in sin and are sinful by nature. They are self-willed, naturally selfish, violent, angry, and full of gluttony, greed and lies.

However, they are not accountable for their sin nature and if taken by death, are

<p>saved by grace through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Nevertheless, they are, as the poet wrote, “curly headed monsters” and must be born-again in order to become a true child of God by faith.</p> <p>The LDS have an interesting approach to this subject because the focus on reaching and teaching children who are paradoxically recognized as “natural” but redeemable,” is not on being spiritually born-again but is much more on parenting and activity in the church.</p> <p>Like a stain remover under the kitchen sink, the blood of Jesus in most LDS homes is there to clean up mistakes and sins of the individual only when used in conjunction with a hefty dose of their own elbow grease to scrub it away.</p> <p>When a person is born in sin, the onus to remove it is the author of life itself.</p> <p>When a person is born clean, the onus to remove sin is the individual.</p> <p>See the difference?</p>	
<p>This leads us to the title of our book and Ministry – Born-again Mormon.</p> <p>While the Book of Mormon does in fact teach about being spiritually reborn, and actually describes the event in rather revivalistic 19th century themes which include hand-clapping and being “slain in the spirit,” rarely, if ever, will you hear LDS teachers or instructors emphasize the importance, yes, even the Lord’s</p>	

imperative, that you must be born-again.

Why?

Go back to their errant view of the Fall and the nature of Man.

If everyone born on this earth is automatically –

A son or daughter of God spiritually
and

without sin

WHY would they need to be spiritually regenerated?

Add into the mix that there are some sins that are not so evil and others which are unforgivable, and you have the makings for a group of people who actually grown up to adulthood thinking they are rightfully a child of God who has rarely done anything wrong.

The point is, far too many stalwart LDS miss the point that they are sinners inside, and need a new heart and a new spirit – one completely different from the one with which they were born!

But listen to the descriptive illustration given in Titus about who we are before knowing Jesus, what we become once we know Him, why we are saved having come to know Him, and then finally, what we should do with ourselves since we have come to know Him.

Ready? Titus 3:3-8

<p><i>"For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.</i></p> <p><i>4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,</i></p> <p><i>5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;</i></p> <p><i>6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;</i></p> <p><i>7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.</i></p> <p><i>8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men."</i></p>	<p>Does this passage describe human beings as sinless children of God? (verse four)</p> <p>How did the love of God our Savior appear? (verse five)</p> <p>It appeared not because of our works of righteousness (not because of all we can do) but according to HIS mercy He saved us. And . . . and . . .</p> <p>Then finally, Paul then tells us what we are to do with this experience:</p> <p>Do you see the order here in Titus 3:3-8?</p>
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We were reprobates. 2. We were saved because of God's mercy and not our righteousness. 3. We were made heirs to eternal life. 4. And now, in this state, we are careful to maintain good works.
<p>The final "Twistian" belief the LDS have proposed over the years (and if not so much publicly anymore, indeed privately) which is linked to their view of "the Fall," has to do with the Virgin Birth of Jesus.</p> <p>Defenders of Mormonism today emphatically deny that what I am about to say is LDS doctrine was ever <i>really</i> LDS doctrine.</p> <p>I want you to know that it was certainly taught to me as doctrine when I was active in the Church and as you listen to the quotes from leaders you can decide if it was ever taught as such.</p> <p>Aside from the biblical references regarding the virgin birth like Isaiah 7:14 (<i>Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.</i>) and the Gospel accounts that refer to Mary in this way, Christians believe Jesus was born of a virgin because to have been conceived and born through the means all other human beings are born would have meant Jesus was born in sin.</p> <p>Whether doctrinally true or not, this stance</p>	<hr/> <p>- FOR INFORMATION ONLY-</p> <p>This prophecy was delivered about 740 years before Christ, in the reign of Ahaz, king of Judah. The land of Judea was threatened with an invasion by the united armies of Syria and Israel, under the command of Rezin and</p>

makes the line in "Away in a Manger" make sense:

"The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes.

The little Lord Jesus no crying He makes."

Again, had Jesus been conceived like other men are conceived, He would not have been unspotted and without sin as the sin of Adam would have been upon His head.

Fittingly, a passage in Job reads:

"Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? No one."

But to the LDS, who believe children are born innocent, without sin, and automatic children of God, there is no theological need for a virgin birth or conception.

This lead LDS leaders conclude that Jesus was in fact conceived and born in the way every other human being is conceived and born.

Even without the following statement, the LDS view that God the Father has a body of flesh and bones and that Jesus is His literal offspring supports the notion that God the Father had sexual relationship with Mary, the mother of Jesus.

But let's read some quotes to support this hotly debated issue:

"God the Father became the literal father of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the only person on earth to be born of a mortal mother and an immortal father."

(1992 Gospel Principles, pg. 64)

Pekah. Ahaz was alarmed, and seems to have contemplated calling in aid from Assyria to defend him. Isaiah was directed in his consternation to go to Ahaz, and tell him to ask a sign from God, (Isa 7:10; 11:1-16); that is, to look to God rather than to Assyria for aid. This he refused to do. He had not confidence in God; but feared that the land would be overrun by the armies of Syria, (Isa 7:12) and relied only on the aid which he hoped to receive from Assyria. Isaiah answered that, in these circumstances, the Lord would himself give a sign, or a pledge, that the land should be delivered. The sign was, that a virgin should have a son, and before that son would arrive to years of discretion, the land would be forsaken by these hostile kings. The prophecy was, therefore, designed originally to denote to Ahaz that the land would certainly be delivered from its calamities and dangers, and that the deliverance would not be long delayed. The united land of Syria and Israel, united now in confederation, would be deprived of both their kings, and thus the land of Judah be freed from the threatening dangers. This appears to be the literal fulfillment of the passage in Isaiah.

"The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints proclaims that Jesus Christ is the son of God in the most literal sense. The body in which He performed His mission in the flesh was SIRENED by that same Holy being we worship as God, our Eternal Father. Jesus was not the son of Joseph, nor was He begotten by the Holy Ghost. He is the Son of the Eternal Father."

(Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, as quoted in the April 1997 Ensign, page 15).

Brigham Young was even more to the point:

"The birth of our Savior was as natural as are the births of our children; it was the result of natural action. He partook of flesh and blood – was begotten of His Father, as we were of our fathers."

(Brigham Young, JOD, 8:115)

McConkie gave a number of statements verifying this teaching, but let's conclude with one from an LDS non-authorized speaker, one BYU Professor **Stephen Robinson** who said in 1997:

"The official doctrine of the Church is that Jesus is the literal offspring of God. He's got 46 chromosomes; 23 came from Mary, 23 came from God the Eternal Father."

Before we go to the phones, let me remind the viewers and listeners what the Bible says about the conception of Jesus:

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

<p>When Joseph his stepfather was in turmoil of what to do with Mary as she was found with child, he too, was mercifully instructed from where the Savior came:</p> <p>(Matthew 1:20) <i>But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.</i></p> <p>In other words, the angel was saying, “Joseph, do not fear, she remains a virgin as she bears a child who was begotten by the Holy Spirit of God, not the Holy <i>body</i> of God.</p> <p>LDS prophet Ezra Taft Benson said</p> <p><i>Jesus was not . . . begotten by the Holy Ghost.</i></p> <p>The Bible tells us that “He was conceived of the Holy Spirit.”</p> <p>Again – what are you going to choose to believe? (beat)</p> <p>Let’s go to the phones:</p> <p>(801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p>	
<p>EMAILS</p>	

<p>CONCLUSION</p> <p>Lord'sword The Gateway Theaters 9:15-10:15am And the University of Utah 7-8pm</p> <p>www.lordsword.org</p> <p>REMEMBER, we'd love to send you our new monthly newsletter.</p> <p>Go to</p> <p>www.bornagainmormon.com for more information</p>	<p>(GRAPHIC)</p> <p>(GRAPHIC)</p>

<p>Live!</p> <p>From the “Mecca of Mormonism”</p> <p>This is Heart of the Matter</p>	<p>Show 14 The LDS Attitude – Part I</p> <p>March 25th 2008</p> <p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
Streaming Video Announcement	
In the House Tonight	
<p>We’re starting to get a little top-heavy on the community announcement section, so if you want to know about what is going on in the State, go to www.bornagainmormon.com and just click on _____</p>	
<p>Speaking of Bornagainmormon.com, you can order our book (I Was A Born-Again Mormon) right off our site.</p> <p>We get an awful lot of questions about what it means to come to the Lord through rebirth – especially as a Latter-day Saint – and so we offer this book to you as it gives a better answer than I ever could through email.</p>	<p>I Was a Born-Again Mormon is also available at:</p> <p>Christian Gift and Bible in Sandy</p> <p>Gift of Grace Christian Supply in Springville</p> <p>Utah Lighthouse Ministry by Franklin Field</p> <p>Oasis Books in Logan</p>

<p>Okay, spring is almost here which means summer is close behind.</p> <p>So grab your paper and pencils for a few announcements.</p> <p>Ready?</p> <h2>War Camp</h2> <p>An All-Male Two-day Fishing Trip Get Away</p> <p>When: June 2008</p> <p>Where: Stream-side not more than an hour or so from downtown Salt Lake City.</p> <p>Why: To fellowship and learn from the Word how to be better husbands, fathers, sons, and Christians.</p> <p>Who: Any males, any age, any beliefs, who want to come.</p> <p>Go to www.bornagainmormon.com to register or get more information.</p>	
TRAVELING PASTOR	

(show Graphics)	
Finally, Heart in the Park has been appropriately renamed to Burning Heart with more of a focus on revival and rebirth. It will be held Sunday, September _____ Please plan on joining us. And watch for more announcements.	

PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER	

<p>I'm inclined to think that tonight's show will expose us to a little more criticism from the LDS because so much of it is NOT going to be based on recorded facts and doctrine, but on my personal observations from being an active Latter-day Saint for most of my life.</p> <p>Admittedly, subjective analysis is limited in scope, so I do not offer the following as undisputable truths, but rather as my interpretations of my own observances as a Latter-day Saint.</p> <p>What makes our show tonight even more arguable is the topic – which is part one of “the LDS attitude.”</p> <p>When I say, “the LDS attitude,” it should be more than apparent that I am speaking “generally.”</p> <p>Not all LDS fit the mold.</p> <p>But generally speaking, and from my experience, a verifiable – if not almost tangible and palpable - LDS attitude exists among the majority of active members from within the church.</p> <p>After much thought, I link this attitude directly to the LDS views on God, matter, And their views on the purpose of life.</p> <p>After presenting the characteristics of the LDS attitude and explaining why I think it exists as it does, I intend on using the Bible to show that such attitudes are antithetical to how the God describes the regenerated Christian.</p>	
<p>It was perhaps the “LDS attitude” that first got me wondering if Mormonism was as</p>	

"true of a Church " as it claimed it to be.

I remember reading the New Testament gospels and trying to figure out why the Jesus of the New Testament wasn't anything like the model presented to me in the Church.

Yes, people were polite like they taught me that Jesus was polite.

Yes, people were generally kind and considerate like the Jesus I was shown in Sunday School.

Truly, I was taught to believe:

*"Jesus wants me for a sunbeam,
To shine for Him each day.
In every way try to please Him,
At home, at school, at play."*

I also recognized that in every ward and every stake there was always this core group of LDS families who sort of represented the "embodiment" of all things Mormon, which naturally placed everyone else in a position to either imitate them - or mock them - depending on your personal state of humility or rebellion.

It doesn't take long once you have moved into a ward to know who they are.

They were the ones who were generally placed in the most important leadership roles.

The ones who were always asked to give the important talks at Stake and ward Conferences, at Easter and on Christmas.

Somehow they always bore the strongest testimony at the meetings, setting everybody straight when things locally appeared to be a bit off course.

These are the defenders of the faith, the ardently committed - the stalwarts.

I looked and listened to them closely, wanting to know what drove them to this level of performance?

Without exception – without exception – the center of their lives, the focal point, the locust, the median, the foundation – was THE CHURCH.

It was NEVER Jesus or a relationship with Jesus.

Heavenly Father, at times.
Joseph Smith – frequently.
Modern prophets – quite often.
The Book of Mormon – always.

Never, ever a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

I’ve tried to step back and study these “upper echelon folks and their families.”

They intrigue me.

In general, I find them to have achieved a lions share of temporal success. And the more professional this success, the more elevation, responsibility and honor they tend to receive in their callings.

Doctors, dentists, lawyers, and corporate icons were almost always chosen over tradesmen, blue-collar workers, and artists

– aside from the occasional and token aberration.

Those who have experienced financial success always seemed to have a place at the head of the line or are more esteemed than those with financial difficulties, and those with higher educations (if they maintained outward humility) were always “ahead” of the drop out or lowly high school grad.

Naturally, successful family men and women would always lead over the divorced, the unmarried, and even the widowed.

“What drives these dedicated souls?” I used to wonder. “What is at the core of their motivations and why are they so spiritually, oh, what’s the word, “smug?”

On November 4th of 2003, my wife and I were having a discussion with one of these “high performance” Mormons who was serving as a Stake President at the time.

We were talking about Church programs and he made a startling statement which I recorded in my notes after the meeting:

He said:

“the whole purpose of the Church was to prepare people to become Gods.”

End quote.

For some reason this statement served to officially bridge and “seal” all the gaps I had in my brain regarding the “Mormon

attitude” I had witnessed my whole life and what I had come to see as the Christian attitude the Bible says everyone should possess.

“The whole purpose of the LDS Church is to prepare people to become Gods.”

“The whole purpose of the LDS Church is to prepare people to become Gods.”

Hmmm. “Is this what I am seeing played out all around me,” I thought, “people who actually believe they are Gods in embryo?”

Now defenders of the faith will cite all manner of LDS verses that warn about being proud and maintaining humility.

And though the LDS certainly teach about being humble, its sort of like teaching Marines that they have to kill and maim, but to not enjoy it.

Let me give you **another example**.

Image that there is a church that teaches that God is a physically fit body-builder.

He is fitted with enormous muscles and is in perfect physical condition, in addition to His being humble and just and kind.

And let’s say this religion also taught that men and women would someday, if they lived right, become muscle bound body builders too – just like God.

Because the end goal of becoming a muscle-bound God has been revealed to them, it would not take very long for the members of this false religion to begin to adopt and present the outward characteristics of their

described future state!

Soon, the bigger and more fit people of the organization would automatically – and naturally – be recognized as being more “godlike” and therefore of more value than those with less muscle mass and/or physical fitness.

In the end, the frail and sickly would be entirely discounted (yet encouraged to hope for the future) and the fat and obese would be held in disdain.

But the point and parallel is, those who embodied the end goal most while living on this earth would naturally be held in the highest esteem.

So it is with Mormonism.

And the problem is this system and its resultant attitude is antithetical to the Bible’s description of a true follower of Jesus.

He seeks and uses the lowly.
The unlearned.
The weak things of the world.

Who were Jesus apostles?

Captains of industry?
Lawyers? Doctors? Men of worldly accomplishment?

Or did He choose lowly net fishermen?
Tax collectors.
Even a traitor who killed himself!

Why?

Because Jesus teachings weren't geared to Prepare people to become Gods. He was just trying to save us all from hell.

This leads to a big difference in attitude, doesn't it?

Where temporal status plays a major role in the icons of Mormonism today, the Lord speaks to the people of Laodicea in Revelation and warns them, saying:

Revelation 3:17 . . . thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.

James warns us explicitly in chapter two of his epistle about “respecting persons,” saying:

James 2:1 ¶ My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.

2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

4 Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus

said:

*Matthew 5:3 ¶ Blessed are the poor in spirit:
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall
be comforted.*

*5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit
the earth.*

The Prophet Isaiah said:

*Isaiah 57:15 For thus saith the high and lofty
One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is
Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with
him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit,
to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive
the heart of the contrite ones.*

When achieving Godhood is the goal,
power, progressiveness, business acumen
and the acquisition of wealth become the
standards by which men are admired and
praised.

All of which are antithetical to the
descriptions of a “Christian” in the Word of
God.

Now, active members of the Church will
state that one of the surefire evidences that
Mormonism is true is the fact that the
people who have committed to the
Mormon way are far more “happy,”
“healthy,” and “productive” than those of
most other religions on earth.

I would first suggest that they haven’t met
enough true Christians to make such a
comparison.

But I would also recommend they take a long hard look at someone who has committed themselves to the principles, lifestyle, and culture of say, another strong earthly institution, like maybe the Walt Disney Company, and see what they find.

The people I've seen who are committed to being a part of and working for Disney are just as *happy*, just as *healthy*, and just as *productive* as any Latter-day Saint I've ever met.

Because if their happiness is based on all the same principles.

Many world systems are capable of producing happy, healthy, and productive people, including the US military, multi-level marketing groups, and many non-Christian religions – so long as their participants are dedicated to the purpose and cause which is driving the organization.

Abdicate or abandon any group's purpose to which you have been committed and you will find yourself in a state of discomfort and disassociation both with yourself and with those still involved in the group you've left.

Finally, I would suggest to the defenders of the Mormon system that they take a long hard look at the recent study by a US agency on mental health, where Utah was discovered to have the highest percentile in the nation for mental illness.

Listen, when Jesus said

"I am the way, the Truth, and the Life," He meant it. He is.

NOT an anthropomorphic Father in Heaven. Not Joseph Smith. Not Modern Day prophets and not the Book of Mormon.

And especially not some person who seeks to lead the way by virtue of their earthly accomplishments, career, education, or position in the ward or stake.

I would suggest the possibility that Mormonism is hemorrhaging at the seams.

That people are abandoning ship, that retention levels are low, and convert baptisms are drying up.

I would suggest the immediate cauterization of their wounds through doctrinal reform and historical apology.

People think I hate Mormons. They think I despise EVERYTHING LDS.

This is just not so. In fact, I think they actually have a lot going for them, general attitudes aside.

The hope is, and has always been, Jesus.

And when the LDS church authentically turns to Him – individually and collectively - they will find the attitudes which are in such opposition to the message of Jesus – fading away forever.

Let's open up the phone lines:
(801) 973-TV20
(801) 973-8820

EMAILS

1.	
2.	
3.	
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<p>CONCLUSION</p> <p>Lordsword</p> <p>Up and coming events, including:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Traveling Pastor April ____ at Jim's Family Restaurant in American Fork (with baptisms following)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">War Camp (for Men) This Coming June</p> <p>And in September . . .</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Burning Heart A State Revival</p> <p>Go to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.bornagainmormon.com</p> <p>for more information.</p> <p>God bless, and we'll see you next week, here on Heart of the Matter.</p>	

(WRITE THIS OUT ON THE BOARD
BEHIND CAMERA)

Shawn is standing, in a suit and tie before
the camera.

**NO INTRODUCTION YET.
JUST OPEN WITH SHAWN BEFORE
CAMERA on a black set.**

“Good evening.

Welcome to the final show of Heart of the
Matter.

Over the course of the past few years I
have often wondered where the Lord
would take me regarding this ministry.

I’ve watched my daughters lose friends.

Seen my parents family pull away from
us.

Wondered all along if what I was doing
was right.

A little over a month ago we started
getting calls from a man who said his
name was John from Illinois.

He invited me to “come back to the
Church.” That it wasn’t too late - to
repent, and come back.

I tried to brush this invitation off. Yes, I
even laughed at it. But something about
it called to me – late at night – in my
quiet moments of personal reflection.

Last week, I received a call from my
wife’s Stake President.

Tearfully, he too, invited me to come back.

(Big breath)

My family has suffered.
I have suffered.

I have spent far too much time away from home.

In many ways I realize I have been wrong about my stance against the LDS Church.

And so I want to announce tonight that I am going to be rebaptized -

(Interruption by two hecklers)

“Don’t do it!”

(beat)

“You’ve lied to us, man! You’re liar man . . . you big fat liar man!”

Please let me finish, here. Please???

. . . so I am going to be rebaptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

(beat)

I am sorry if this hurts your feelings or if I have offended you.

But isn’t this what life is all about?

Making my parents and brothers and sisters happy and proud of me?

Making it easy on my wife and children?

Isn't this what Jesus would do?

(LONG BEAT)

Now, in taking this step, I am prepared to re-embrace the LDS idea that . . .

The Bible is not enough - but I also have need (HOLD UP) for these holy books like the doctrine and covenants, this Pearl of Great Price, and this Book of Mormon.

I have to re-accept that faith in Jesus is not enough to ensure my salvation, but that I must also receive

- the LDS baptism to live with God,
- the LDS priesthood to live with God,
- the LDS temple rites to live with God,
- and an LDS re-sealing to my wife to live with God.

I must also earn my exaltation, which comes through a life dedicated to serving the Church, and doing all IT requires of me . . . for the rest of my life . . .

Perhaps most importantly, however, I have to accept the idea that for me to stand before God I have to admit that Jesus Christ was not enough for me. That I ALSO have to recognize and believe that Joseph Smith was the one who restored the true Church and priesthood and its ordinances back to the earth.

I must trust and confess Him as a prophet, seer, and revelator. And I must have a testimony of Him with me when I

<p>die in order to live with God again.</p> <p>(beat)</p> <p>Did you know that I would have to agree to all of these things in order to “come back” to Mormonism?</p> <p>(beat)</p> <p>And did you know today is April fools – and I would have to be the biggest fool in the world to ever, ever, ever do such a thing?</p> <p>(smile)</p> <p>LIVE!</p> <p>From the Mecca of Mormonism – <i>Salt Lake City, Utah!</i> This is Heart of the Matter.</p>	
START INTRO HERE, then . . .	
	<p>Show 15 April Fools April 1st 2008</p> <p>. . . and I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
STREAMING VIDEO ANNOUNCEMENT	
IN-THE-HOUSE TONIGHT	
Apologize for upsetting people out there.	

<p>Announcements:</p> <p>Reign Down</p> <p>“Aleutheia Project”</p> <p>Support Group</p> <p>War Camp</p> <p>Lord’sWord</p>	
<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>	
<p>Years ago, Hollywood screenwriters approach their craft using a simple paradigm that was fairly well understood.</p> <p>Films were broken down into three acts.</p> <p>The same formula – though now much more complex and rearranged – still exists today.</p> <p>(GO TO BOARD)</p> <p>The Three Act Paradigm looks like this:</p> <p>Set up Conflict Resolution</p> <p>I-----I-----I-----I</p> <p>(explain these parts) (Use “Rocky” example)</p> <p>I am going to use this screenwriters paradigm over the next few weeks to explain LDS doctrine.</p>	

We'll title this script:

"Twistianity"

Tonight I am simply going to review Act One, or the "set up" of our film script for "Twistianity."

In the weeks to follow, I'll give you the components to the conflict and what they offer up as the resolution, or third act.

Ready?

Now, remember, the set-up of a script lays the foundation for everything else that is to occur in the film.

Once the set-up is in place, it gives us room for conflict, and then a reason for a sound resolution.

The main theme for the set up here is all stuff Joseph Smith said took place in the LDS idea of the pre-existence.

Now the only thing Christians know about a pre-existence is what the Bible says -

Jesus was the only pre-existent one, AND Satan, a created angel, was cast from the presence of God.

But Joseph taught, and Mormon doctrine supports these Act I themes:

(WRITE OUT)

- An eternal regression of Gods.
- Jesus as a created being and elder

<p>brother.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A renunciation of the Trinity. • Satan as our spirit brother. • The Fall being upward and good. • All of us being God's children from the start. <p>Okay?</p> <p>Over the next few weeks, we are going to review the scenes in Act Two, which include:</p> <p>Doctrines of Salvation (which is a biggie) Jesus Ministry on earth The establishment of His Church by Him The so-called Apostasy The Dark Ages</p> <p>And then we'll discuss the scenes for the final act or Resolution Act of our script for Twistianity, which will include</p> <p>The Restoration Present-day Church.</p>	
<p>Open the Phones and read some emails</p> <p>(801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4. 	

[illegible]

<p>LIVE!</p> <p>From the Mecca of Mormonism – SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH</p> <p>This is Heart of the Matter!</p>	<p>Show 16 – Sparrows in the Room April 8th 2008</p> <p>And I'm Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
LIVE STREAMING VIDEO	
IN-THE-HOUSE TONIGHT	
<p>Want to extend an invitation to you – especially if you have been LDS and now feel burned by God -</p> <p>Go to Church. This week.</p> <p>Pick yourself out of bed and go to a Christian Church.</p> <p>Now, if your looking for a church – and I suggest you shop around – we invite you to visit</p> <p>LORD'SWORD</p>	<p>Meet every Sunday morning at The Gateway movie theaters downtown at 9:15am.</p> <p>We also meet Sunday evenings at the University of Utah from 7-8pm.</p> <p>All are welcome. All.</p> <p>We sing, pray, and teach the word verse by verse. We're done in an hour.</p> <p>We have people to care for the kids and the teens (if they so desire).</p> <p>Low key, no membership stuff, just Worship, prayer and the Word of God.</p>

	<p>Do not leave your home church for us, but if you are not attending a church on Sundays, get off yer butt and come on down.</p>
<p>I WAS A BORN-AGAIN MORMON</p>	<p>(INSERT BOOK SHOT)</p> <p>Available at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oasis Books in Logan - Sam Weller's in SLC - Utah Lighthouse Ministry in SLC - Christian Gift and Bible in Sandy - The Salt Lake City Library - Calvary Chapel SLC Bookstore - Christ Evangelical Bookstore in Orem - Gift of Grace Christian Supply in Springville <p>Hey, it's a pretty good book - especially if you want to know more about the Lord and rebirth as a Latter-day Saint or if you are Christian and are looking for a fair representation of what it is like being LDS.</p> <p>Always order online at www.bornagainmormon.com</p> <p>Now, my friend Jay Larsen, down in apathy Valley, asked the Provo library to offer the book to the public.</p> <p>He received this back from the Carla Zollinger, the reference manager who said that they were not going to offer the book based solely on a review they read online about it.</p>

	<p>The review was written, believe it or not, by a fellow Christian who took seven single spaced pages to lambaste the books content.</p> <p>Mrs. Zollinger stated that the reason the library rejected carrying our book, however was not based on content, but was on the reviewer saying that the book had no page numbers and lots of typos and grammatical errors, which the reviewer said, <i>"may make it difficult for the serious reader to consider McCraney's unique views."</i></p> <p>I want to say publicly here on the air that we have provided a second edition version of the book so the (ahem) serious reader would be able to consider my unique views. I wish the Provo librarians would have requested one from us.</p>
<p>Hey, I hope you will all forgive me for the April fools joke last week.</p> <p>We've received no small amount of response for the dastardly trick – the most humorous (and sad) from a young woman who burst out into tears and ran screaming through the house that they had gotten to me.</p> <p>We also had an 85 year old woman tell me she grasped her chest certain that it was the big one.</p> <p>It won't happen again – at least for another seven years. :)</p>	
<p>A number of you contacted us about my commenting on the</p>	

<p>lulling LDS speak we hear at conferences and from other Mormon pulpits.</p> <p>Grandpa Al told me all groups centered on controlling their members use speech modification.</p> <p>Lanna wrote and said:</p> <p>(READ 2)</p> <p>I think she and Al are onto something there.</p>	
Freemason Article (see #3)	
<p>One of the first things President Monson has done as president of the LDS Church is to accept a meeting with Affirmation, a gay Mormon support group.</p> <p>(see #4)</p>	
Let's PRAY PRAY PRAY	
<p>If you have watched the show long enough you may have heard me say that "a good teacher will, when they set out to teach math and a sparrow flies in the room, drop the math book, and teaches about sparrows."</p> <p>Well, I want to try and be a good teacher.</p> <p>I had an entire show written last Friday continuing our discussion</p>	

about the LDS Script – ACT II.

But all week long I was being bombarded by one sparrow after another.

By this morning, I couldn't ignore them any longer.

And so we will speak next week – God willing – on Act Two of the LDS Script and this week, let's talk about the sparrows.

Last weekend was the 178th Annual General Conference for the LDS Church.

Thomas S. Monson was sustained as prophet, seer and revelator of the Church.

The Salt Lake Tribune reported that Monson *"invited the less active, the offended, the critical, the transgressor,"* to come back and *"feast at the table of the Lord and taste again the sweet and satisfying fruits of fellowship with the Saints."*

It is one thing to say this, President Monson. I mean it sounds nice and everything – like something Jesus would say.

But do you really want this to occur?

Do your members really want those people who are less active, offended, critical and sinful to come back?

<p>I would have to say, from everything I see and hear, that no, you wouldn't want us all back.</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>Because you never really wanted us in the first place.</p> <p>Last night we had a TRAVELING PASTOR in American Fork</p>	<p>We had a wonderful time meeting with people who appreciate the show.</p> <p>Thank you all for coming out.</p> <p>I met with a young woman and her husband and little girls.</p> <p>She told me that both her parents were alcoholics when she was a child growing up here in Utah and they were all members of the Church.</p> <p>She said, "I was only a little girl. And I really liked going to church and everything."</p> <p>One day she turned from everything "GOD" when the Bishop took her aside and told her out of nowhere that she and her family were not "worthy to be members of the church."</p> <p>She expressed to me how she was just "this young girl with all sorts of family problems" who really needed help at this time in her life but only found herself personally rejected by this heartless attitude.</p> <p>Why would this attitude exist, President</p>
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	<p>Monson?</p> <p>Why would this attitude exist, President Monson?</p> <p>I sat with a family whose children attend public school in a predominately LDS community not far south from here.</p> <p>In this community the high school seminary teacher somehow has been allowed to run the activities of the kids.</p> <p>He thought it would be a righteous thing to print a list of LDS kids who are not attending seminary – and then he distributed them to the students at large!</p> <p>You should have seen this sweet kid sitting there, trying to explain what it's like attending this school.</p> <p>When Gordon B. Hinckley died the seminary teacher lead a “wear your Sunday best to school in his honor.”</p> <p>Text messages passed it along.</p> <p>Naturally, this left five kids wandering around school for the next three days as total outcasts – and the recipients of all the other kid's condemnation still today.</p> <p>Our heart goes out to you kids who face this junk everyday in this state. You have got it tough. May God strengthen you and bless you as you walk this difficult road.</p> <p>But you're not alone. This sschnit happens at every age.</p> <p>I met a woman last night who was told by her LDS city official that her legitimate</p>
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	<p>business services were not “wanted” in the predominately LDS community that she recently moved into.</p> <p>She has repeatedly been pestered and antagonized by the civic offices of this LDS hometown.</p> <p>“Come back and feast at the table,” President Monson?</p> <p>Could a man who loves God but smells of tobacco “come back and be welcomed at the feast, President Monson?</p> <p>How about a family of six – the wife working at the piggly wiggly and the husband a security guard with a taste for coffee? Could he “come back” to say, the capital hill ward here in Salt Lake City, President Monson?</p> <p>How do your wards and stakes accept – and I mean love and accept - unwed mothers, tattooed bad-boys, or unemployed men with mental illness and a few divorces under their belt “<i>taste again the sweet and satisfying fruits of fellowship with the saints.</i>”</p> <p>What about people who are just different?</p> <p>People who dress funny? Think differently? Walk a different walk? Are they <i>welcomed</i>?</p> <p>Why do the stories like I heard last night flow into my inbox week end and out, President Monson?</p> <p>I want to tell you why, right here and now:</p> <p>It is because of your doctrines, President</p>
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	<p>Monson.</p> <p>It's the direct result of "non-Christian doctrines" flowing through the unregenerated hearts of the people who call themselves active.</p> <p>All of your General Conference speeches to your members about treating people of other faiths and beliefs and differences with love don't mean schnit if your doctrines are going to remain as they are.</p> <p>Lead them to Jesus, President Monson. Lead them to Jesus and Jesus alone.</p> <p>Because it is only through Him that your members will truly be able to love others.</p> <p>It is only when they see themselves as SINNERS – vile, selfish, self-centered, ego-centric sinners – that they will, in turn, be able to look on others (beat) with His love.</p> <p>Until then, these utopian speeches of "treating everyone of different faiths with love" and "coming back to feast" are like a pagan reading the words of Jesus into a Pharisee's ears.</p> <p>Your people, president Monson, have come to believe that they are somehow worthy and justified to God by virtue of their own righteousness.</p> <p>Your doctrines have made them believe that they are going to be God's someday.</p> <p>Your leaders taught just last week that you are the ONLY TRUE AND LIVING CHURCH ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH president Monson.</p>
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	<p>And you think with doctrines and positions like this your people are going to love people who are down and out and struggling?</p> <p>ONLY Jesus can do it. Not Mormonism. Not activity. Not your tele-prompted speeches.</p> <p>Only Jesus. Tell them that, President Monson.</p> <p>Tell them to fall broken before Jesus, to repent of their piety, to see themselves for who they really are – and then ask the critics, and the sinners, and the insulted back.</p> <hr/> <p>And the soapbox remains . . .</p>
<p>My friends, I want you to know that we are standing on the field of an immanent ideological war.</p> <p>The LDS Church of today is beginning to take up arms and we are going to see a more militant attitude among the members and leaders alike.</p> <p>On the top end – Apostles like Ballard, Holland, and Nielson – are presenting one side of the front.</p> <p>Listen to their speeches of late.</p> <p>They are fighting strongly for legitimacy while at the same time demanding respect for tainted views they insist are true and living</p>	

Christianity.

These men are not dumb. They will use whatever means necessary to sway the membership and convince the masses that they are innocent of wrongdoing and benign in their beliefs.

At another level, they are allowing non-official defenders of the faith to meet and greet with the masses, so as to spin the traditional LDS stance and make it seem more Christian.

Men like BYU professor Bob Millet are allowed – and are even financially underwritten by LDS money – to step into Christian churches and present their own subjective faith as valid Mormon doctrine.

These presentations are duplicitous and often at odds with official Mormon doctrine, teachings, and practice.

Why would the leadership allow this?

To muddy the waters. To offer spin. And to get the unlearned and trusting to embrace Mormonism as a legitimate arm of Christianity.

Additionally, we will more and more see Mormonism pulling the bigotry card. They will cry hate-speech as much or more than any group seeking to dominate and find legitimacy in religious realms.

<p>A recent article in the LA Times is titled “US Muslim and Mormons share deepening Ties” is a must read for anyone interested in this rising tide.</p> <p>There is only one defense, my friends from this prophesied and modern-day onslaught of man-doctrine wrapped tightly in the American flag- the Word of God.</p> <p>Read it, study it, and hear it taught.</p> <p>Predatory groups have always relied on people being ignorant of God’s Word.</p> <p>LDS missionaries will spend no time with anyone who knows the Bible. They will move on to the next door.</p> <p>Teach yourself, teach your children.</p>							
<p>Now last week we introduced a paradigm or model screenwriters often use to help format their scripts for films.</p> <p>The three act script paradigm looks something like this:</p> <div><table><tr><td>ACT 1</td><td>ACT 2</td><td>ACT 3</td></tr><tr><td>Set up</td><td>Conflict</td><td>Resolution</td></tr></table><p>I-----I-----I-----I</p></div> <p>We then explained that in ACT I, or the “set up” act, everything necessary to “support” the film was</p>	ACT 1	ACT 2	ACT 3	Set up	Conflict	Resolution	<p>(GRAPHIC)</p>
ACT 1	ACT 2	ACT 3					
Set up	Conflict	Resolution					

presented.

We announced we were going to outline a hypothetical script for a film called “Twistianity” in which the major doctrinal themes and scenes from Mormonism would be presented.

Now before we progress using the paradigm, I have to say just one more thing.

If Mormonism today were not claiming to be “Christian,” or the only “true Church on earth,” or didn’t present themselves as “true believers of the Bible,” I would not be doing this show.

Really.

In fact, I’ll make a deal with the LDS leadership right now –

If President Monson publicly states that Mormonism is not Christian I will stop the show.

Deal?

You notice that we don’t attack Muslims or Islam, right? The reason we leave Islam alone is Islam doesn’t claim to be Christian.

They don’t suck unsuspecting people in with claims of Christianity only to feed them an alternative gospel and bind them in religious laws.

Notice that we don't attack Judaism. Why? They don't claim to be Christian either.

We don't attack Atheists or pagans or witches because they don't claim to be Christian.

But we go after the Latter-day Saints because more and more they are making a world-wide media-oriented claim to represent themselves not only as Christian, but as the only true form of Christianity on earth!

Adding to this unconscionable front, Mormonism has maligned and besmirched biblical Christianity from the first vision on.

Even today, LDS missionaries tell people that God told Joseph Smith that all of Christianity was an abomination and that He was going to restore the truth back to the earth through him!

As recently as 1990, LDS temple films depicted Protestant Ministers as employed by Satan.

And we're the ones - here on the show - that are being labeled as religious bigots!

Why?

We don't claim any one Christian denomination is better than another. We teach relationship over religion.

We truly allow all men to worship how and what they may – the Jews, the Muslims, and eastern religions.

But when it comes to our position with Mormonism, we merely pose evidence as to why Mormonism is NOT Christian and why they have no right under God’s universe to lay claim to the title.

Does Mormonism have a right to exist? Absolutely.

Should a member of the LDS Church ever be persecuted or attacked for their respective doctrines? Never, ever.

Let them believe that “God is a polygamous man glorified” for all I care.

Let them believe there are sins that can’t be forgiven, that they will become gods, or that Joseph Smith was a prophet or that Jesus is their elder brother and that they are earning their salvation.

But no Christian would ever allow you to say that this stuff is biblical or that it is Christian.

And when you do, every single Bible-believing Christian should stand-up and reject each and every non-Christian claim you make.

This is not religious bigotry or hate-speech. It’s defining and defending our sacred turf which they are deceptively impinging upon and

claiming as their own!

Turf where millions of men, women, and children have given their lives to defend.

Listen, if a man snuck into the United States from, say, Russia, and then claimed to be an American Citizen, our own government would stand up and say, "No, you're not an American. You're a Russian and you have no right to make this claim."

Would you say the government is bigoted because of their stance? I would hope not.

All they are stating is fact.

If a person from Russia wanted to become an American Citizen, that is entirely possible.

But they would have to take some oaths and recite specific beliefs and agreements to become such.

He could not state, "I will live in the US but serve Russia" at his _____ to become an American citizen.

But you all seem to think that a Mormonism can claim to be Christian while at the same time claiming to worship an all together different God!

What makes this situation even more troubling is the offensive

things the LDS church has said in the past (and continues to suggest in the present) against the Body of Christ – against those who have embraced biblical Christianity!

And have they ever apologized for saying these things?

Never. WHY?

Because they consider themselves “spiritually superior” to all of Christianity.

There’s a YouTube clip available online where BYU professor and LDS public relations man Bob Millet says before a class of Brigham Young University students that

“they know more about Jesus Christ by virtue of their membership in the Church than all the religious professors of the day.”

Let me remind you of some of the other things that the LDS have said about Christianity:

(check this quote out)

Alright?

<p>So are we fighting a fair fight here on the show?</p> <p>Regardless of your position, I hope you can see why we think we are.</p> <p>I hope it is apparent that we are fighting for our turf – just like Mormons fight for theirs.</p>	
<p>All right, let's go to the phones</p> <p>801 973-tv20 801 973-8820</p>	
<p>Hey, go to www.bornagainmormon.com for more information about our ministry, to watch our shows, and to find other information that may be helpful to you.</p>	

<p>LIVE!</p> <p>From the “Mecca of Mormonism”</p> <p>This . . . is Heart of the Matter!</p>	<p>Show 110 – 17 Points Part 1</p> <p>April 15th 2008</p> <p>And I’m your host, Shawn McCraney.</p>
LIVE STREAMING VIDEO	
<p>NO MORE (IN THE HOUSE)</p> <p>We love seeing you, but we have to move on, progress, adapt.</p>	
<hr/> <p>. . . <i>Speaking of adaptation</i>, many of you have noticed that we’ve taken the message board down on our site.</p> <p>You have also noticed that we have stopped doing the local Pastor in the Pub after the show.</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>This ministry has been around now for over four years.</p> <p>We have tried to be a place for people to meet and greet and exchange ideas.</p> <p>We no longer care to be that place - especially for LDS defenders of the faith.</p> <p>Actually, I publicly repent for allowing these “exchanges” to occur.</p> <p>I have acted like the owner of a magazine rack who, in the name of being fair to free speech, has allowed pornography to sit on my shelves.</p>	

<p>Well intentioned people have come to my stand for reliable information and have been exposed to confusing and pernicious materials from confused and pernicious men and women.</p> <p>Life is too short to allow anyone the chance to muddy the clear and living water offered by the Biblical Jesus.</p> <p>So we are headed in a new direction – more instruction and information about Christianity.</p> <p>More video testimonies from people who have left Mormonism because they have come to know who Jesus really is.</p> <p>More time spend presenting truth rather than defending ourselves against lies.</p> <p>Okay . . .</p>	
<p>Hey, on the first Monday night in May, in the backyard of a beautiful Sandy Utah home, we are going to hold another open water baptism.</p> <p>If you have not made a public profession of Jesus as LORD and SAVIOR through baptism, we invite you to come on out.</p> <p>Go to www.bornagainmormon.com</p>	
<p>Then, coming in June, we are going to hold our first annual WAR CAMP – a two day, one night Christian retreat for men.</p> <p>Bring your fishing poles, a sleeping bag and some grub.</p>	

<p>We're going to meet riverside here in beautiful Utah and talk about what it means to be a true Christian man.</p> <p>All males, all ages, welcome.</p> <p>Now listen, ladies, if you want to organize something for women in Utah, let me know. We'll support it if it has to do with teaching women what the Word says about being better Christian women.</p>	
<p>REIGN DOWN USA Announcement</p>	
<p>Polygamy Release (sent to us by Josie) (comment)</p>	
<p>The Stone Cutter John sent me an email about a hymn he recently heard:</p> <p>All Creatures of our God and King, written by Saint Francis of Assisi.</p> <p>John came to know the Lord and left Mormonism and was bowled over by David Crowder, a Christians, rendition of this hymn.</p> <p>A member of John's LDS family reminded him that the LDS have this hymn in their hymnbook.</p> <p>So John looked it up and discovered something very troubling:</p> <p>They neutered the song!</p> <p>And entire verse of praise to God was removed.</p>	

<p>Someday we should do a show on what the LDS have removed from the hymns they have taken from the Christian world.</p> <p>I spent an entire week comparing and contrasting these editorials and it is amazing.</p> <p>John the stonecutter was right to be upset.</p> <p>He – and I – challenge you to listen to David Crowder’s version of All Creatures of our God and King and then look at the LDS version.</p> <p>You’ll be first amazed and inspired, then dismayed.</p>	
<p>On a very interesting side note, I received a call from the LDS Church Headquarters last week.</p> <p>A man named Robert Howell in the Public Relations department there in the Church HQ said he had been receiving a number of calls regarding the named John who was claiming to be LDS and in a bishopric.</p> <p>I let Brother Howell say his piece.</p> <p>He let me know in no uncertain terms that John did NOT represent the LDS Church and that he was pretty certain no such person named John O’Fallon was in a bishopric in Nauvoo, Illinois.</p> <p>When he was done presenting his position I let him in on a few important – but very public - bits of information.</p> <p>I first explained that the man may in fact call himself “John” on the air but we don’t</p>	

know if that is his real name or not.
People often use pseudonyms.

Secondly, his last name is not O'Fallon,
but he, instead, was calling from O'Fallon
Illinois.

Third, Nauvoo has never been brought up
in connection to John or his calls. I don't
know where they got that information.

And finally, I explained that John has
never presented himself as a
representative of the Church, but only as a
believing faithful member of the Church
who served as a member of a Bishopric.

Brother Howell then stood corrected.

But he went on to say that surely we
would want someone, in the name of
accuracy and fairness, to represent the
Church correctly when they called in to
the show.

"What do you mean?" I asked.

He said that no true member of the
Church would make a comment like John
did about "forbidding his wife from"
watching or saying my name in their
house.

I said that while he or I may not be that
way, that there are certainly many men -
LDS and not - who maintain such
attitudes toward their wives.

Brother Howell then sort of transitioned
into the job title he assumes - public
relations guy for the Church - when he
related that he too, had one time been
involved in television - screening callers

<p>actually – and that so much could be done to prevent the “not so reliables” from getting through on the air.</p> <p>It was as if he was trying to nicely suggest that we do a better job of screening our callers.</p> <p>I maintain that whether John is truly LDS or not, he embodies the traditional stalwart LDS male attitude.</p> <p>Brother Howell said something about wanting to find John in order to “stop him.”</p> <p>And then the call ended – amicably – but sort of annoyingly.</p> <p>In relation to this subject, we had a self-appointed defender of the LDS faith email us and proclaim that he is:</p> <p>“95% certain that John O’Fallon is not a member of the LDS church.”</p> <p>Typical – an LDS apologist claiming near-“certain knowledge” about a topic . . . and he doesn’t even have his facts right.</p> <p>Oh well, oh well, oh well.</p>	
<p>Finally, two weeks ago at our traveling pastor meeting in American Fork, I met a man who used to be LDS whose name was Jim.</p> <p>Jim and his wife were a very kindly slightly older couple and though they love the show, Jim disagreed with a stance I have maintained relative to people having their names taken off the rolls of the Church.</p>	

Most of you know that I have said it really is a personal thing that doesn't matter.

If you want to do it, go for it. If you don't, don't worry about it.

We'll here I am again, repenting. Because Jim opened my eyes.

I would now strongly recommend that ANYONE who has considered taking their name off the Church records to do it.

En masse.

Here is the reasoning:

First, it will send a message loud and clear: we are not going to put up with your shenanigans any longer, Mormonism.

Change your doctrines and practices or watch your membership numbers fall.

Secondly, it sends a message to all the Bishops and Stake presidents telling them the same thing.

Third, it causes them to work, to fill out paperwork and bureaucratic forms and could, in the end, result in people from inside saying, "Why?"

"Why?" is such a great question for people to ask themselves.

So from this point forward, Alatheia Ministries supports a

SEND A MESSAGE campaign.

Send a message today, my friends.

<p>Get up and write that letter to the Bishop of your ward.</p> <p>Send a message that says you are tired of being ostracized.</p> <p>Send a message loud and clear that you don't believe in golden plates, becoming a God, or secret temple rituals.</p> <p>Send a message to them because in the end, your message just might speak to others. And get this beast to change.</p>	
PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER	
<p>Two weeks ago, if you recall, we introduced the paradigm or model for script writing.</p> <p>It consists of three acts – the set up in Act One, the conflict in Act Two, and the resolution in Act III.</p> <p>And we said we we're going to present the basic elements of "Mormonism" in this three act format – calling it "twistianity."</p> <p>This tool may help you understand the "what's and why's" of Mormonism relative to biblical Christianity.</p> <p>You'll see from the graphic that the set up act consists of the LDS beliefs supposedly taken from the pre-mortal existence.</p> <p>All of these points in the "set-up of Mormonism act" are based on things which Joseph Smith claimed relative to his</p>	

teachings on a “pre-existence.”

These include -

- An eternal regression of Gods.
- Jesus as a created being and elder brother.
- A renunciation of the Trinity.
- Satan as our spirit brother.
- The Fall being upward and good.
- All human beings are God’s children from the start.

Okay? So Mormon doctrine is pretty much set up by what Joseph Smith described from his doctrines on the “pre-existence.”

Most of the teachings relative to salvation, this life, after life, are founded in these elements of Act One.

Now that the stage has been set, let’s move on to the next Act of this script – Act II - conflict.

These scenes in the “Conflict Act” are things Mormonism claims which Christianity is either lacking in or has lost completely.

The real “conflict” here is actually between what the Bible teaches and how Joseph and the LDS interpret what it says.

Tonight, we’re going to address the idea of there being only “One True Church.”

(SHOW Graphic)

ACT I - The Set up **LDS Beliefs**

- An eternal regression of Gods.
- Jesus as a created being and our spirit “elder-brother.”
- A renunciation of the Trinity.
- Satan as our spirit brother too.
- The Fall being upward and good.
- All human beings are God’s children.

(SHOW GRAPHIC)

ACT II - Conflict

- The “True” Church of Jesus Christ

Now the LDS maintain the idea that Jesus established a church consisting of “institutionalized offices” – you know, “one True literal-under one roof so to speak Congregation” rather than a body of spiritually reborn believers who follow all sorts of organized paths to God.

They insist Jesus “organized” an institutional construct that was to carry on as “His Church” until He returns.

This model relates much, much closer to the Roman Catholic claims than the claims of those Churches which formed during and after the Protestant reformation.

In fact, LDS Apostle Legrand Richards once made a great either/or claim years ago in a book called, *A Marvellous Work and A Wonder*, which said (and I’m paraphrasing here) “that the true Church on earth is either Catholicism or Mormonism, which ridiculously infers that either the Catholics still have the authority of Christ or, they lost that authority and so God had to restore it back to the earth through one Joseph Smith.”

In other words, where the Catholics claim uninterrupted authority to act for Christ through a priesthood lineage which has come down since Peter, Mormonism claims this authority was lost and corrupted, and needed to be “restored” to the earth – and was restored to the earth – through Joseph Smith.

This whole premise is nothing but a big fat straw man, based on a selective and misinterpreted readings from the Bible, and the acceptance of a number of man-

made ideations.

When Jesus said to Peter:

Upon this “rock” I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it,” the Catholics have selectively ignored a truck load of other verses and have purposefully used this line to suggest that Jesus built His Church entirely upon Peter and a line of “infallible” successors.

But the LDS, in the shadows of the dark ages, have injected themselves with selective amnesia by forgetting that Jesus also said, “And the gates of hell will NOT prevail against” this church He established!”

According to LDS teachings, the gates of hell did, in fact prevail against the Lord Church, so much so that the true “church” as they have it painted was completely removed from the earth!

I would suggest that everyone should ask themselves:

“What did Jesus establish when He was on the earth? What did it look like? Was it a formal actual “building” containing ordinances and religiosity and dogma or was it a saving message that redeems people through all sorts miraculous manners, means and ways?

Next, shouldn’t we ask ourselves, “Did Jesus fail in establishing this Gospel of salvation once and for all? When He said, “It is finished,” was He kidding? Did the gates of hell prevail, leaving millions of people shortly after His ascension in stumble in the dark until Joseph Smith came along to fix what

Jesus couldn't do Himself?"

I think you should also ask yourself:

What would controlling men say God established on earth (to retain power) and what would God establish on earth to save people?

Controlling men would tell you that God ONLY operates in this Church, in this way, with these exact beliefs and practices and lifestyles. You must do this. You must be that. You must have this baptism, that ordinance (that only we can give you).

But the Bible says

Galatians 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

In Christ Jesus we are all one.

Finally, you will need to ask yourself over the next few weeks, if the construction of Mormonism is what the Bible says it is, or is it what LDS men (and now women) have made the Bible say it is.

Now, years ago, there was a LDS man named Griffith who wrote a thing called "The Seventeen Points of the True Church."

I believe – someone correct me if I am wrong – that the LDS Church publishes these points on little cards and that members and missionaries alike will pass them out. What is especially deceptive about this little piece is it uses the Bible to

<p>support its claims.</p> <p>I want to read them to you.</p> <p>When you hear them, especially if you do not have any experience in the Word of God, they may sound fairly reasonable.</p> <p>But when you take them one by one – which were going to do – and compare them with a contextual understanding of what the Word says, you will see that some of them are half-truths and some of them are flat out misrepresentations of the biblical verses they use to support them.</p> <p>(Read the 17 Points)</p> <p>We'll let's cover the first two tonight, and the remaining 15 over the next few weeks.</p>	
<p>Point One: Christ organized the Church.</p>	<p>Think about this! Of course for the Church to be the real Church Christ (Jesus) would have organized it!</p> <p>And He did – over 2000 years ago.</p> <p>And it consists of a body of believers who all fill and act in different capacities from a host of different “churches” spread throughout the world.</p> <p>The LDS use Ephesians 4:11-14 to support this statement which they are applying to themselves.</p> <p>It reads:</p> <p>Ephesians 4:11 <i>And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;</i></p>

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.

What the LDS fail to add to this first point is another passage in the previous chapter in Ephesians 3: 21, which reads:

Eph 3:21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end.

You see, Jesus established His Church and it is, has been, and always will be build of believers, who are founded in the faith by the Word.

Do you notice that it reads in verse twenty-one "Unto Him be glory in the church throughout ALL ages?"

The Church – a body of believers – have always existed since Jesus formed His Church, throughout all ages.

It was not "re-organized" or "restored" to the earth through Joseph Smith.

<p>Point Two: The True Church must bear the name of Jesus Christ! And they use Ephesians 5:23 to support this, which reads:</p> <p><i>Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.</i></p> <p>How this passage support this little carnival trick doctrine is beyond me.</p>	<p>Of course Christ is the head of His Church – the chief cornerstone – but nowhere does it say the individual gatherings of believers must use His name outside on the door.</p> <p>I mean, we all do call ourselves “Christians,” do we not?</p> <p>Biblically, the Church collective is aptly referred to as “the Church of Christ,” and “the Body of Christ,” but does this mean “the body of Christ should be in the letterhead of every gathering?</p> <p>Isn’t people being known individually as Christians enough?</p> <p>Who came up with this “point or requirement?” I’ll tell you who.</p> <p>Joseph Smith lived at a time when people were seeking to re-establish what they felt was the lost Christian faith.</p> <p>One of the leaders of this restorationist movement was named Alexander Campell.</p>
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	<p>He had a list of points or requirements of what must be in the truly restored Church and the name of Jesus in the title was one of the biggies.</p> <p>If this is the case, why does the New Testament speak of</p> <p>1Co 1:2 "the church of God which is at Corinth,"</p> <p>"the church at Cenchrea"</p> <p>Paul saluted the "churches of Asia" as they were known, and spoke of.</p> <p>"the church of God which is at Corinth,"</p> <p>"the church of the Laodiceans"</p> <p>"the church of the Thessalonians"</p> <p>"the church of the living God"</p> <p>Timotheus, ordained the first bishop of the church of the Ephesians</p> <p>Titus was ordained the first bishop of the church of the Cretians.</p> <p>And what about the seven Churches in Revelations? The Church of Ephesus?</p> <p>The Church at Thiatyra?</p> <p>NOWHERE does the Bible say the name of a Church needs to include the name of Jesus Christ.</p>
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	<p>Why?</p> <p>Because salvation is not in Church memberships.</p> <p>Salvation is in a relationship with Jesus Christ directly.</p>
	<p>Alright, we'll cover the remainder next week.</p> <p>Let's open the phone lines up:</p> <p>(801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p>
EMAILS?	
<p>Conclusion:</p> <p>Hey, just want to send our love and prayers out to Brandon and Kara and Millie.</p> <p>Brandon has come to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, received Him, and now walks by faith in Him and Him alone.</p> <p>We love you brother.</p> <p>We'll see you next week, here on Heart of the Matter.</p>	

<p>LIVE!</p> <p>From the Mecca of Mormonism</p> <p>- SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH -</p> <p>This is Heart of the Matter!</p>	<p>Seventeen Points Part II</p> <p>April 22nd 2008</p> <p>And I'm Shawn McCraney your host.</p>
Live Streaming Video Announcement	
<p>Hey, did you know that every single show we have ever done is available online for free!</p> <p>Just go to our website at www.bornagainmormon.com and you can download any show from March 2006 to the present.</p> <p>We're getting ready to offer specific shows at the retail level too, so if you are interested in picking one up stay tuned.</p>	
<p><i>"I was a Born-Again Mormon"</i> - the book that started it all - available at</p>	<p>Christian Gift and Bible</p> <p>Utah Lighthouse Ministry</p> <p>Gift of Grace Christian Supply</p> <p>Calvary Chapel Salt Lake City</p> <p>Sam Weller's downtown SLC</p> <p>Oasis books in Logan</p> <p>Calvary Chapel Bookstore Costa Mesa, CA</p> <p>And of course you can order the book online through us at www.bornagainmormon.com</p>
<p>This coming May 5th - Cinco de Mayo!</p> <p>- we are going to be holding an open</p>	

<p>water baptism for those of you desiring baptism in the name and faith of the Lord Jesus Christ without any ties or commitment to a religion or denomination.</p> <p>We do this because there are people out there who want to make a public profession of faith in HIM, but do not want to tie themselves to a religious institution.</p> <p>Go to www.bornagainmormon.com for the address and direction.</p>	
<p>MARK YOUR CALENDARS, FOLKS</p> <p>June: <i>War Camp</i> for males</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - overnight stream fishing trip here in Utah for men, their sons, and males of all ages. - we'll provide the teaching and agenda, you bring what you need. - Friday, June , coming back Saturday afternoon, June . <p>September: <i>Burning Heart</i> (which has been called Heart in the Park before)</p> <p>You can also go to www.bornagainmormon.com for more information about this.</p>	
<p><i>"EXPULSED"</i> announcement here!</p>	

<i>REIGNDOWN USA</i> announcement here!	
<p>Other announcements / events / things in the news:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FLDS 2. 3. 4. 5. 	
PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER	

<p>Last week we introduced to you seventeen points the LDS often use to prove or show why their Church is true.</p>	
<p>The first “Point” the writer lists is an unusual one:</p> <p>Christ organized the Church.</p>	<p>Now think about this for a minute. It implies that “Christ” then, organized their church!</p> <p>Give me a break!</p> <p>They think Jesus Christ brought in temple rites with secret names and rituals and apparel?</p> <p>Or that He made the Boy Scouts of America His own program for boys that age?</p> <p>Now it does go without saying that whatever church was truly His (however that is defined) certainly would be initiated and approved by Him.</p> <p>But to say that a sign of the True Church is that it was organized by Him is to pre-suppose that there is a “true singular institution out there” He organized.</p> <p>Not so.</p> <p>What did He organize over 2000 years ago.</p> <p>A gospel. A message of truth. A compilation of beliefs which alter</p>

anyone and everyone with ears to hear and hearts to know.

It consists of a body of believers who all fill and act in different capacities from a host of different “churches” spread throughout the world.

The LDS use Ephesians 4:11-14 to support this statement which they are applying to themselves.

It reads:

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.

What the LDS fail to add to this first point is another passage in the previous chapter in Ephesians 3: 21, which reads:

Eph 3:21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end.

You see, Jesus established His Church and it is, has been, and always will be built of believers from all over the

	<p>planet – some who, believe it or not – have never even set foot in a church!</p> <p>Mormonism would love to have everyone in the world believe that the Church Jesus established is an institution with buildings that is run by men.</p> <p>The True Church of Jesus is a movement founded on individual relationships people have established with God by faith – and He is the one who runs the show – no intermediaries needed.</p>
<p>Point Two: The True Church must bear the name of Jesus Christ!</p> <p>And again, the support they use for this is from the book of Ephesians (chapter 5:23).</p> <p>Well. let's look at this. And remember, their point is that the "true church MUST bear the name of Jesus Christ."</p> <p><i>Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.</i></p> <p>How this passage supports this little "carnival trick" doctrine is beyond me.</p>	<p>Of course Christ is the head of His Church – the chief cornerstone – but nowhere does it say the individual gatherings of believers must use His name on the wall outside.</p> <p>I mean, don't all true believers in Jesus</p>

	<p>Christ embrace the name “Christian?”</p> <p>You will notice a reticence on true Christians parts to call themselves by the title of the Church they attend.</p> <p>Conversely, you will discover that most people who have a religious relationship with God use the institutional name without a second thought.</p> <p>It means nothing for a religionist to proudly state:</p> <p>“I’m Catholic.” “I’m a Baptist.” “I’m Mormon.”</p> <p>These types usually place “church” where the name “Jesus” should be.</p> <p>To the relationalist, there is usually a hesitancy when they are asked “what they are.”</p> <p>Usually, they respond with something like:</p> <p>“I’m a Christian.”</p> <p>OR</p> <p>“I’m a Christian who attends the Catholic church, or Baptist Church, or whatever church.</p> <p>Very, very rarely, will you ever hear a Latter-day Saint define themselves relationally to God, but instead they almost always tie themselves to “<i>the Church.</i>”</p>
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	<p>Biblically, the Church collective or believers are aptly referred to as "<i>the Church of Christ</i>," and "<i>the Body of Christ</i>," but does this mean "the body of Christ" should be in the letterhead or above the door of every gathering to be considered true?</p> <p>What is more important of a title to God – that of a "true Christian" or that of a "True Mormon?"</p> <p>How on earth did Latter-day Saints come up with the idea that the name of Jesus Christ has to be in the title of a Church for it to be considered "true?"</p> <p>Well let me tell you.</p> <p>Joseph Smith lived at a time when people were seeking to re-establish what they felt was the lost Christian faith.</p> <p>The fad was known as the "restorationist" movement.</p> <p>One of the leaders of this movement was named Alexander Campbell.</p> <p>Mr. Campbell came up with a list of points or requirements of what must be part of the truly restored Church and the name of Jesus in the title was one of the biggies.</p> <p>It only made sense to Mr. Campbell. So then it made sense to Joseph Smith.</p> <p>If this is the case, why does the New Testament speak of</p> <p>1Co 1:2 "the church of God which is at</p>
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	<p>Corinth,”</p> <p>“the church at Cenchrea”</p> <p>Paul saluted the “churches of Asia” as they were known, and spoke of.</p> <p>He wrote to “the church of God which is at Corinth,”</p> <p>“the church <i>of</i> the Laodiceans”</p> <p>“the church <i>of</i> the Thessalonians”</p> <p>“the church <i>of</i> the living God”</p> <p>Timotheus, was ordained the first bishop of the church <i>of</i> the Ephesians</p> <p>Titus was ordained the first bishop of the church <i>of</i> the Cretians.</p> <p>And what about the seven Churches in Revelations? The Church of Ephesus?</p> <p>The Church at Thyaityra?</p> <p>NOWHERE does the Bible say the name of a Church needs to include the name of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>Because salvation is not in Church memberships.</p> <p>Salvation is in a relationship with Jesus Christ directly.</p> <p>Don’t get me wrong – church is a good thing. But don’t get me wrong – millions upon millions of people have</p>
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	<p>come to receive saving faith through churches with names like</p> <p>The Church of the Lamb</p> <p>The Church of Living Water, or</p> <p>The Church of the Holy Sepulchre Burning with the Shikinah Glory of God.</p>
(801) 973-8820 (801) 973-TV20	
<p>Conclusion:</p> <p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p>	

<p>LIVE!</p> <p>From the Mecca of Mormonism!</p> <p>SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH</p> <p>This is Heart of the Matter</p>	<p>Show 19 Seventeen Points Part III</p> <p>April 29th 2008</p> <p>And I'm Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>STREAMING VIDEO</p>	
<p>This coming Monday evening, Cinco de Mayo, in Sandy, baptism for all interested in publicly profession Jesus as your Lord and Savior.</p> <p>GO TO:</p> <p>www.bornagainmormon.com</p>	
<p>The Lord certainly works in mysterious ways. (review of Atlanta visit)</p> <p>Most of you who have watched the show know I was LDS for forty years, listened to a radio preacher in Southern California, received Jesus as my Lord and Savior roadside, and became a Christian through rebirth.</p> <p>Four years later I wrote a book, asked to be excommunicated, entered a school of ministry in southern California, and in a very round about way, got an opportunity to host this show.</p> <p>In all these years I never informed that radio teacher of what he led me to do.</p> <p>Three months ago, our station manager and his wife, Denny and Michele, were in Atlanta Georgia for the National Religious Broadcast Convention where they had the opportunity to meet Dr.</p>	

<p>Charles Stanley who was the radio teacher that led me to the Lord.</p> <p>They gave him a copy of my book, which details the story of my conversion.</p> <p>He read the section and invited me out to meet with him in Atlanta.</p> <p>Saturday night, Mary and I flew to Atlanta and Sunday morning were guests of Dr. Charles Stanley at his church.</p> <p>Not only was I able to thank him – hug him – in person for his ministry and life’s work . . .</p>	
<p>Hey!</p> <p>Have you gotten the courage to send your message yet to the LDS headquarters?</p> <p>Have you taken the time to tell them in no uncertain clarifying terms that you want out and off their records?</p>	

<p>Join with us – make a commitment – to let Mormonism today know that you are NOT interested in being associated with the religion as it has and currently stands.</p> <p><i>Send a message</i> that you want Jesus at the forefront before you or your family will ever attend their services again.</p> <p>Tell them to renounce polygamy and to apologize for it.</p> <p>Tell them to remove section 132, the Book of Abraham and the rites of exaltation demanded of its members.</p> <p>Get up and send them a message loud and clear:</p> <p><i>“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out!”</i></p>	
<p>The unsightly polygamous situation in Texas has given many some pause for reflection.</p> <p>Faithful supporter Grandpa Al and his brother John passed this thought along to me:</p> <p>The LDS church has made it clear that in no uncertain terms are the FLDS in southern Utah and Texas part of Mormonism proper.</p> <p>They have labeled the FLDS “an offshoot,” a “fallen sect,” and a people</p>	

<p>who bottom-line cannot be considered true Latter-day Saints.</p> <p>What gives them the right to make these claims?</p> <p>As we mentioned last week, the FLDS are far closer doctrinally to being true Latter-day Saints than the Salt Lake City Church.</p> <p>Why does the Salt Lake City church get to say who is LDS and who is not? Because they have money and lawyers and more members?</p> <p>You see, they think they have the right to say who is Mormon and who is not, but Christians don't have the right to say who is Christian and who is not.</p> <p>They want their cake and to eat it too – in everything!</p> <p>They go ballistic when the FLDS are tied to their organization but get offended when Christians have the same response to them being tied to the body of Christ!</p> <p>The solution?</p> <p>The Bible. Pure and simple.</p>	
<p>Finally, we want to take a moment and thank all of you for the kindness and consideration you have given us toward the ministry.</p>	

<p>The information you send us, your words of encouragement, the prayers you send up – even those who have chosen to support us financially – have truly been a blessing to the ministry.</p> <p>May God bless each of you for whatever form of support you have offered on behalf of this work to reach others with the Truth of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>And with that, let's have a prayer.</p>	
<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>	
<p>Point three: The True Church must have a foundation of Apostles and Prophets.</p>	<p>We've been in the process of examining what the LDS call the "Seventeen Points of the True Church."</p> <p>Last week we discussed the first two.</p> <p>Tonight, we will cover the third, which reads:</p> <p>Now, take a minute a look at the strategy being used here I this statement.</p> <p>They take a Biblical passage, like Ephesians 2:19, which is unquestionably true, and they quote it –</p> <p><i>Eph 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of</i></p>

the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.

BUT! ☝

BUT! ☝

They then supply their special but all together errant interpretaion of what the passage means!

Is the Gospel of Jesus Christ built upon a foundation of apostles and prophets?

Absolutely! This is biblical truth.

So how are the LDS abusing this passage with their interpretation?

What do Christians think this passage means?

On this point alone, I don't know why at least fifty percent of LDS people don't have their names removed from the records of the Church.

Let me explain why.

Paul calls believers a "*household of God,*" and says they are "*built upon a foundation of apostles and prophets.*"

Now if you were to build a house, you would start with a foundation, and once it was laid and cured, you would begin to build your house upon it, right?

How often would you go back, tear down the house, then tear up the

	<p>foundation?</p> <p>Would you tear the house down every week, month, year, to re-pour the foundation over and over again?</p> <p>Of course not!</p> <p>How many times does the foundation of a household have to be laid?</p> <p>Once. It is the foundation!</p> <p>You might redecorate or remodel. You might paint or add aluminum siding to the building, but the <i>foundation</i> remains in place – unless it is faulty and cracked.</p> <p>Did Jesus lay a faulty foundation?</p> <p>No, He built upon the foundation He laid.</p> <p>Because He laid it with apostles and prophets, with Jesus Himself serving as the chief cornerstone!</p> <p>Now here's a real kicker – we KNOW that once the foundation was laid, it was laid permanently – <i>once and forever</i>, and we know this by looking at the Greek.</p> <p>The word used here – which is the participle - “<i>epoikodo methentes</i>” in proper syntax is translated “<i>having been built.</i>”</p> <p>It's an <i>aorist passive participle</i>, referring to a <i>past action</i> and in this specific case, it is <i>an action that has</i></p>
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<p>(NOTE: Peter combined two phrases from Psalms into one to determine this was what needed to be done: Psalms 109:8 and Psalms 69:25)</p>	<p><i>been completed!</i></p> <p>It's been done!</p> <p>My friends, the LDS church's system constantly uproots and demolishes the early Christian foundation which Jesus laid permanently by replacing it over and over again with <u>unqualified</u> men.</p> <p>"What?"</p> <p>"What do you mean, "unqualified men? How could you say such a thing, you mean, mean man?"</p> <p>"Why, our apostles are the most qualified men on earth! Why, they are judges, and physicians, and life-long faithful members of the church!"</p> <p>It is not to their worldly stature or their clean living that qualifies or disqualifies them as true apostles.</p> <p>In first Corinthians 9:1 Paul writes:</p> <p>Am I not an apostle? am I not free? <i>have I not <u>seen</u> Jesus Christ our Lord?</i></p> <p>When the apostles sought to replace Judas with someone to continue on as a personal witness – which was prophesied should occur and which is why they did it – they looked for an individual which (it says in Acts chapter 1):</p> <p><i>"had companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,</i></p>
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beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.

So Jesus established His Church upon apostles who, as Paul said, *"have seen Him,"* and as Peter said, were *"witnesses of His resurrection."*

Now as witnesses of Him and His resurrection, none of the apostles ever hesitated in proclaiming their special witness of Him.

In fact, they all – except John the beloved – were martyred for their very verbal and vocal testimony of whom they witnessed with their own eyes!

Since Joseph Smith supposedly restored the church back to the earth, there have been upwards of eighty to a hundred or more "LDS apostles."

How many of them stand and uncategorically state that they have seen Jesus with their eyes?

I want to know!

Make me a fool. Show me the error of my ways. Prove me a reprobate in need of repentance.

Tell me – testify to us – that you LDS apostles have seen with your eyes the resurrected Lord.

Don't play nuance games with us. Don't wink and say "we really know."

Tell us plainly that you have seen Jesus

	<p>Christ.</p> <p>Tell us with your mouths that you have seen Him with your eyes!</p> <p><i>But</i> if you haven't seen Him with your eyes, will you please admit this too?</p> <p>Please.</p> <p>Because if you haven't seen Him with your eyes (He still has His Body, you know) you have been deceiving millions of people with this charade.</p> <p>(beat)</p> <p>But not being an actual witness is only one reason the LDS apostles are not true apostles.</p> <p>Let's look at other reasons to reject Mormonisms claim to having "apostles and prophets?"</p> <p>First, why does the Bible always read "apostles and prophets" but the LDS say "prophet and apostles?"</p> <p>Aside from the fact that there were always many, many prophets wandering around in biblical times (including female prophetesses) the LDS hierarchy of a single Prophet and replacement apostles is another twisted representation of biblical truth.</p> <p>Why does the Bible always list apostles first and prophets second? This is the order in the "church" Jesus established.</p>
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	<p>The apostles spoken of in Ephesians 2:19 were first hand witnesses of Jesus and held the “office of apostle” in the foundation of the Lord’s church.</p> <p>Jesus trained and taught them His gospel so they could take it out to the world, setting hearts alight with His saving truths.</p> <p>Upon their witness the Church would miraculously grow and expand.</p> <p>The “prophets” spoken of in the same passage refers to those men who held the “office of prophet” prior to His ascension which includes, but is not limited to</p> <p>Noah, Moses, Abraham, Nathan, Hosea, Amos, Joel, Jonah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Obadiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Ezekiel and Daniel, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi, and John the Baptist.</p> <p>So, upon the foundation of the office of apostle (who were first hand witnesses) and the office of prophets (those who came testifying before Him), Jesus built His church.</p> <p>These offices are to be differentiated from apostles who are <i>sent out</i> today and people who possess the gift of prophecy now.</p> <p>These offices were foundational to the spiritual house Jesus built.</p> <p>And what about the idea that the apostles of Jesus called continue to be</p>
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	<p>replaced by new men.</p> <p>Mormonism claims to have modern day apostles who are filling the vacated offices of the twelve Jesus originally built His Church upon.</p> <p>The first “apostles” of Mormonism came about by way of a revelation to the three witnesses of the Book of Mormon who then chose the first “replacement twelve apostles” of the LDS restoration.</p> <p>But Paul said in 1st Corinthians 4:9:</p> <p><i>“For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles <u>last</u>, as it were <u>appointed to death</u>: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.”</i></p> <p>It is clear from this passage that the office of apostle was a one time situation (they were last) that they were appointed unto death (meaning they would die for the cause) and that they would be made a spectacle before the world, and angels, and men!</p> <p>Does this in any way match the way an apostle lives today?</p> <p>Instead of being last, they continue. Instead of being appointed unto death, they are protected! Instead of being a spectacle, they are revered! Revered!</p> <p>Then there is the simple numbers to</p>
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	<p>consider.</p> <p>In the Book of Revelation (21:14) it states that the wall around God's heavenly city is supported by <i>"twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the lamb."</i></p> <p>Wooops.</p> <p>Even the foundation of heaven – not just the Church of Jesus – but the foundation of heaven! is built upon twelve pillars named after the twelve apostles of the Lamb!</p> <p>Now the LDS argue that if there are only Twelve apostles, why did the first apostles get together and call someone (Mathias) to replace Judas when he killed himself?</p> <p>First, and as I already mentioned, to fulfill prophecy.</p> <p>Peter states this when they called the replacement man Mathias.</p> <p>Second, they had a mission to fulfill – to "kick-start" the gospel so to speak – and God initiated twelve men – representing the twelve tribes – to do the work.</p> <p>Once it was kick-started, the work was done.</p> <p>Third, the apostles, under impetuous Peter's lead, called Mathias after limiting the candidates to just two men. All of this occurred by their own will</p>
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	<p>and prior to the arrival of the holy spirit.</p> <p>God had another idea – Paul – who He called later on.</p> <p>Finally, there is no continuing office of apostle as Timothy gives us no qualifications for the position, as he does for a bishop, deacon, an elder, etc.</p> <p>Are you beginning to see the mockery of Mormonism’s continuing “revolving” door of apostles?</p> <p>Can you see what an insult these men are to the twelve who lost their everything for the cause of Christ?</p> <p>My friends, the twelve of Jesus ate the dust of the earth. They were mistreated, they suffered, and they gave their all – even their very lives – to share Jesus with the world.</p> <p>In the narrow sense (or, the “office of Apostle,”) they were hand chosen by Jesus Christ, were witnesses of Him, and performed great miracles in His name.</p> <p>The LDS apostles meet none of these conditions for apostleship either.</p> <p>Now, I mentioned that there is a wider sense of the word, apostle, and it means “one sent.”</p> <p>There were many ones “sent” in the Word who were known as “apostles” like Barnabus, Andronicus, Junia, etc.” But they did not fill the office of apostle.</p>
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	<p>I could be considered an apostle in the broader sense of the word as I have been sent, by God, to Utah.</p> <p>Get it?</p> <p>There is another issue to consider with the so-called restored gospel and apostles.</p> <p>The first thing Jesus did at the start of His ministry was to call His apostles – so they could witness all things.</p> <p>The LDS Church was established in 1830. It wasn't until five years later that Joseph had the idea to add apostles to his foundation.</p> <p>So what was the true Church founded on for those five years when they were without apostles?</p> <p>Was it the true church then?</p> <p>Finally, in relation to apostles, why do you suppose no "Bible-believing, Bible studying, truth-seeking Christians" have ever established twelve apostles in one of their churches?</p> <p>There are some of the world's greatest scholars who understand biblical exegesis and interpretation who have never said:</p> <p>"We need twelve apostles! We need twelve apostles!"</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>Because they know what being an</p>
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	<p>apostle means, what their purposes were, and the narrow and broad context in which the word is used in the Bible today.</p> <p>But the LDS church sends tens of thousands of young clean cut representatives out into the world everyday who arrogantly and ignorantly claim they represent the Lord's one and only true church by asking:</p> <p>"How many other churches do you know that have twelve living apostles."</p> <p>Unsuspecting people respond, "Uhhh, none, I guess."</p> <p>"Exactly," the missionaries reply. And another convert steps into the waters of Mormonism.</p> <p>You know, the New Testament speaks about false apostles too.</p> <p>In 2nd Corinthains 11:13 it describes them:</p> <p>"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ."</p> <p>I guess in a similar but opposite vein we Christians should start asking:</p> <p>"Where on earth is there a Church that has men who claim to have been "transformed into apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ?"</p> <p>(beat) ☺</p>
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	Alright, let's go to the phones.
(801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820 LDS and first time callers preferred. Turn your television sets down and have a comment or question ready.	
EMAILS?	
Lord's word www.bornagainmormon.com Open baptism this Cinco de mayo!	

<p>LIVE!</p> <p>From the “Mecca of Mormonism”</p> <p>-SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH-</p> <p>This is Heart of the Matter . . .</p>	<p>Show 20 Seventeen Points Part IV - Prophets</p> <p>May 6th 2008</p> <p>And I’m your host, Shawn McCraney</p>
Streaming Video Announcement	
Baptism Last Night	(VIDEO CLIP?)
<i>I Was a Born-Again Mormon</i>	<p>(INSERT GRAPHIC?)</p> <p>Go to www.bornagainmormon.com</p> <p>For a listing of where you can get the book in the State of Utah, California, and on-line.</p> <p>We do give the book away for people in financial hardship or to searching Latter-day Saints.</p>
<p>LDS News and Updates</p> <p>A)</p>	

B)	
C)	
PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER	
<p>We have spent the last few weeks discussing and dissecting the LDS handout called "The Seventeen Points of the True Church."</p> <p>Last week we read to you point number three, which says:</p> <p>"The True Church must have</p>	

a foundation of Apostles and Prophets” and I personally feel we presented a very strong case as to why the LDS claim for having “apostles” is contrary to biblical teachings.

Tonight we’re going to cover the second part of this foundational claim and that is of “modern-day prophets.:

We did a show in 2006 titled “Prophets,” so I will try not to be redundant here.

But I think it is important, however, to understand the LDS position relative to their having a man they call the “prophet.”

Mormons believe that Joseph Smith was the first prophet of this dispensation, that he is the prophet of the restored gospel.

Following in his footsteps, after much debate and division, came Brigham Young, and then a succession of other singular male prophets up to this day and age.

Today, Latter-day Saints believe that Thomas S Monson is “*the* prophet, not *a* prophet, but *the* prophet on earth today, one who leads and guides God’s church here on earth like unto Moses.”

Again, they believe he fills this office no differently than Moses was a prophet to the children of Israel.

Today, Mormonism believes that Thomas Monson and Thomas Monson alone holds all the keys and authority to speak and act for God here upon the earth.

	<p>Missionaries will often use the following “logic” with investigators when explaining the need for a living prophet on earth today.</p> <p>They’ll say:</p> <p>“Because God loved the Children of Israel He sent them a prophet to lead and guide them. Does God love us today as much?”</p> <p>When people say, “Yes.”</p> <p>The missionaries say, “That’s right. And He has sent a prophet to earth to lead and guide us today too!</p> <p>(Then they’ll show a picture)</p> <p>His name is Thomas S. Monson.</p> <p>(Then they bear testimony that they “know” Thomas S. Monson is a prophet of God).</p> <p>All of this might <u>sound</u> well and good - but we’ve got a problem . . . the Bible.</p> <p>Let me restructure the missionary discussion for you – I’ll play the missionary and what he or she <i>should</i> be saying according to the Bible - okay?</p> <p>“Does the Lord love us as much today as He did in days of yore?”</p> <p>“Yes, He does,” says the investigator.</p> <p>“That’s right. And do you know what he did for us? He sent us His only Son, who gave His life for us. Because of this, we</p>
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	<p>can be reconciled directly to God and have communication with Him through His Holy Spirit!</p> <p>There is no need for there to be prophets like they had of old any longer!</p> <p>In fact, let's read Hebrews 1:1-2</p> <p>Heb 1:1 ¶ <i>God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.</i></p> <p>"Well," asks the investigator, "Are there any other scriptural proofs that the office of Prophet is done away with today, Missionary McCraney?"</p> <p>"Why yes, there are!"</p>
	<p>Listen to the way prophets are spoken of in the New Testament:</p> <p>Jesus said in Matthew 11:13 <i>"For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John."</i></p> <p>In Luke 11:50 Jesus said:</p> <p><i>"That the blood of <u>all the prophets, which was shed</u> from the foundation of the world, may be required of <u>this</u> generation."</i></p> <p>Luke revealed that Jesus taught, from the Luke 24:27 <i>"beginning at Moses and <u>all the prophets</u>, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.</i></p> <p>Acts 3:24 says <i>"Yea, <u>and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as</u></i></p>

	<p><u>have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.</u></p> <p>And Acts 10:43 <u>To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.</u></p> <p>The prophets were before Christ Jesus, they pointed to Jesus, told of Jesus, spoke of Jesus. They revealed God's will until Jesus came.</p> <p>But when Jesus came, their job was done, because Jesus ultimately revealed God and His will in the flesh.</p> <p>Remember, God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son!</p> <p>Having sent His Son, and then followed Him up with the coming of the Holy Spirit, who would need a man to intercede for us today?</p> <p>We have His Son, the Word of God, and the Holy Spirit!</p>
	<p>"Are there any other passages in scripture we can read from, Mr. Missionary McCraney?"</p> <p>"As a matter of fact, there are!"</p> <p>There is a story found in every one of the synoptic gospels as told by Jesus.</p> <p>Luke 20 Mark 12 Matthew 21:33-37</p> <p>It goes like this:</p>

	<p>33 <i>There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country:</i></p> <p>34 <i>And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it.</i></p> <p>35 <i>And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another.</i></p> <p>36 <i>Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise.</i></p> <p>37 But <i>last of all</i> he sent unto them his son, saying, <i>They will reverence my son.</i></p> <p>Again, the prophets served a purpose, and were persecuted for it. But <i>last of all</i> God sent His Son!!</p>
<p>“Wow, missionary McCraney, the Law and the Prophets really was fulfilled by the life and death of Jesus.</p> <p>Is there anything else?”</p>	
	<p>Well, perhaps you would want to consider one final biblical event.</p> <p>It is offered by what happened on the Mount of Transfiguration, from Mark 9:2-8.</p> <p>Mark 9:2 <i>And after six days Jesus took Peter and James and John and led them up into a high mountain, apart by themselves. And He was transfigured before them.</i></p> <p>What does this mean?</p> <p>It means a visual manifestation of the total glory of Jesus that existed beneath His Flesh was revealed to Peter, James and John. SO let's read the next verse:</p>

3 And His clothing became shining, exceedingly white as snow such as no fuller on earth could whiten them.

4 And Elijah with Moses was seen by them, and they were talking with Jesus.

You see, on this mount, the true nature of Jesus shined through his outer frame. And besides, Peter, James and John, who else was there? (verse 4)

Now of all the prophets and characters of the Old Testament, why was Moses and Elijah there when the Glory of Jesus was revealed?

Why not Isaiah?
Why not Samuel?
Or Ezekiel?

Because they represented respectively the Law (Moses) and the prophets (Elijah) and the *fulfillment* of the Law and the prophets by Jesus Himself.

Moses represented the Law, for through Moses the Law was delivered to the Children of Israel.

And Elijah represented the Prophets. Why Elijah?

Elijah was the prophet of prophets, who had the most radical of radical ministries of the Old Covenant.

Both Moses and Elijah had deaths that were uncommon to other men, possibly because they would be using their bodies at the transfiguration of Jesus.

Moses disappeared without his burial

	<p>place being known and Elijah was taken up into heaven in a fiery chariot.</p> <p>Now both returned in their bodies which had so strangely disappeared at the time of their passing.</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>The Jewish Targum connects the “<i>coming of Moses with that of the Messiah.</i>”</p> <p>Another Jewish tradition predicts “<i>his appearance with that of Elijah.</i>”</p> <p>And what were Moses and Elijah talking about with Jesus as He was transfigured?</p> <p>Luke (Luke 9:31) "They spake of his death which He should accomplish at Jerusalem."</p> <p>The cloud which overshadowed the witnesses was bright and luminous, of <i>the same kind as the cloud at Sinai when Moses spake with God,</i></p> <p>- <i>the same into which Elijah disappeared in the heavens via chariot,</i></p> <p>- <i>the same that was seen at the ascension of the Lord.</i></p> <p>This event at the Mount of Transfiguration had <u><i>the lawgiver Moses and the prophet</i></u> Elijah coming to the Messiah and presenting the dispensation of the Law and Prophets to the Lawgiver and final prophet, one Jesus Christ, who was about to fulfill the Law and the Prophets through His suffering and death!</p> <p>Here Jesus is the connecting link between</p>
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<p>8 <i>"suddenly, looking around, did not see anyone any more, except Jesus alone with themselves.</i></p>	<p>the Old and New Testaments, between heaven and earth, between the kingdom of grace and the kingdom of glory.</p> <p>Can you yet see why modern day prophets are pernicious? A slap in the face of what Jesus completed?</p> <p>Verse 8 is so apropos to the meaning of this event because it says that Peter, James, and John . . .</p> <p>This is all we need Jesus – the Word, His Word.</p> <p>Not the words of men.</p> <p>Not new and continuing “revelation” to which there is no precedent.</p> <p>Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit which testifies of Him, and the Word He has given.</p> <p>Let me conclude with some icing on this cake.</p> <p>According to the Bible, the gospel has been fully given.</p> <p>Paul declared:</p> <p>“I have fully preached the gospel of Jesus Christ (in Romans 15:19) meaning not one single thing needs to be added to it.</p> <p>Also, the Book of Revelation reveals EVERYTHING about the Church age – past, present, and future – the condition of</p>
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	<p>the church over time, the rapture, tribulation, millennium, and the consummation of all things into an eternal state.</p> <p>All time has been covered. And this revelation of Jesus Christ is not lacking in any information. There is no Post Script or PS God forgot to add mentioning Joseph Smith, or multiple wives, or temple rituals, or prophets to guide us in these latter-days.</p> <p>Jude speaks of the faith that was “once and for all delivered to the Saints!” In other words, there is no more gospel left to give.</p> <p>Take all of this, add to it what Hebrews says about God speaking to us in these last days by His Son . . .</p> <p>. . . that Jesus said all the law and the prophets were up until John . . .</p> <p>. . . that the Mount of Transfiguration was symbolic of the Law and the Prophets being turned over to Jesus Christ and Him alone . . .</p> <p>And I think we have a good case for understanding what Ephesians 2:19 means relative to a foundation of apostles and prophets . . .</p> <p>. . . and how badly Mormonism has twisted this beautifully simple passage into another gospel.</p> <p>Paul warned us about this in Galatians, my friends, when he said:</p> <p>(Galatians 1:8)</p> <p><i>“But though we, or an angel from</i></p>
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	<p><i>heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."</i></p> <p>Let's open up the phone lines:</p> <p>(801) 973-8820 (801) 973-TV20</p>
<p>EMAILS</p> <p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p> <p>7</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p>	

<p>LIVE! From the “Mecca of Mormonism!” -Salt Lake City, Utah- This is Heart of the Matter . . .</p>	<p>Show 21 Seventeen Points - Part V PILOT SAMPLE FOR FAMILY NET TV The Same Organization – Point Four</p> <p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host of the <i>place . . .</i> <i>where “Mormonism . . .</i> <i>Meets Biblical Christianity . . .</i> <i>Face to Face!”</i></p>
<p>www.hotm.tv</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would you like to see past archived shows? <p>Hotm.tv</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Or learn more about our ministry? <p>Bornagainmormon.com</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get our book? <p>Bornagainmormon.com</p> <p>Everyday we are seeing lives changed by the FREEDOM offered through a genuine relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.</p>
<p>Many people ask us:</p> <p>Why a show specifically about</p>	

<p>Mormonism?</p> <p>Why don't you pick on (or you would dare to pick on)</p> <p>Islam or Judaism or Buddhism!</p> <p>Let me offer two reasons:</p> <p>First, I was an active member of the LDS Church for forty years.</p> <p>I know Mormonism.</p> <p>Returned missionary, youth leader, Elders Quorum president, bishopric member, stake High council, married in the LA temple.</p> <p>I know Mormonism. My family is LDS.</p> <p>Secondly, Judaism, Islam, and/or Buddhism doesn't claim to be Christian!</p> <p>Mormonism does!</p> <p>I respect every group's right to believe whatever they want!</p> <p>I'm not a religious despot!</p> <p>But listen -</p> <p>Mormonism claims that God told their prophet Joseph Smith in 1820 that all the Christian churches were wrong and all their creeds were an abomination to Him.</p> <p>And today Mormonism sends</p>	
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missionaries out to doorsteps around the world teaching that they are the ONLY True CHRISTIAN CHURCH!

In other words, Mormonism thinks it has the right to say they are right and all the rest of us are wrong!

But finally, and perhaps most importantly, Mormonism is NOT a biblically Christian faith - and we defend our right to defend God's Word.

A recent article by the editor in the Deseret News, a newsprint and E-publication owned by the LDS church, equates the use of the term "Mormon and LDS" by fundamentalist groups and media outlets to "identity theft."

Says Deseret News Editor Joe Cannon:

"The LDS church has the right and expectation that the use of these terms will convey certain impressions to those who become aware of them - this is known in the business world as "brand equity."

So while Salt Lake City Mormons are fighting tooth and nail to control who can use the terms "LDS" and to define what "LDS" means, they have NO PROBLEM stealing a brand name that was established by the blood of Jesus and millions of others after Him - and demanding we apply it to

<p>them as well - Christian.</p> <p>When you officially announce that you are NOT Christian, Latter-day leaders, and we'll pull the plug on this show that proves it.</p>	
<p>On a related note, New York Times Op/Ed columnist Timothy Egan was berated by LDS Church Historian Marlin Jenkins on April 23rd for an article which said, in effect, that the FLDS in the polygamous compound in Texas are nothing more than a mirror of 19th century Mormonism.</p> <p>Historian Jensen replied:</p> <p>(READ IT)</p> <p>First, I would like to remind the Historian Jensen where the FLDS obtained the doctrine of celestial marriage in the first place:</p> <p>(Show picture of their honored prophets above the blackboard).</p> <p>Secondly, I would also remind Elder Jensen that the FLDS more properly follow Mormon doctrine than the Salt Lake based LDS.</p> <p>Third, do you really expect us to buy the line that there is no comparison to the women in Texas and 19th century LDS plural wives?</p> <p>You say that the LDS women in</p>	

early church history were not subservient? Who are you trying to kid?

ANY woman who agrees to share her husband with one, or two, or fifty other women is tacitly subservient.

Take off your myopic lenses, Jensen.

You imply these women in Texas don't teach school, can't read or write or publish like the advanced women of early LDS history?

Who teaches their children in the compound? Who does all the work on the farm, the reading, the writing?

Have these women and the women of 19th century Mormonism been misled?

Yes.

Lied to?

Yes.

Are all of them obediently following their prophet?

Yes they are.

And we could go on and on.

The point - the real issue - that Timothy Egan points out and Church historian Jensen refuses to acknowledge - is that polygamy -

<p>and the practice of it - is the same in any Mormon tradition - LDS, FLDS, what-the-heck LDS - it all originated from Joseph Smith.</p> <p>And that both the women, men and children in that Texas compound and Marlin K. Jensen here in Salt Lake City - continue to hail Him as a prophet of God.</p> <p>And with this, let's have a word of prayer to open up our subject for tonight.</p>	
PRAYER	
<p>We're going to take a couple calls before our first commercial break so if you have a question or a comment, call now</p> <p>(801) 973-8820 (801) 973-TV20</p>	
<p>So let's continue our coverage of what the LDS call "The Seventeen Points of the "true Church."</p> <p>Tonight we're going to cover number four of their "seventeen points," namely, that <i>"The True Church must have the same organization as Christ's Church."</i></p>	
	<p>So, point four reads:</p> <p><i>"The True Church must have the same organization as Christ's Church."</i></p> <p>Now when I read the <i>SAME</i> organization, I</p>

	<p>think of the <i>same</i> organization, don't you?</p> <p>I would think that whatever Jesus truly established would be present now – nothing more and nothing less.</p> <p>I mean, this is what this rule implies!</p> <p>In the last two weeks we've talked about apostles and prophets, right? Both are present in present-day Mormonism and Christianity, though both are understood in very different ways.</p> <p>What <i>else</i> was present in the Church Jesus established?</p> <p>The LDS list Ephesians 4: 11-14 as the basis for thier claim. It reads:</p>
	<p>Ephesians 4:11 <i>And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;</i></p> <p>12 <i>For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:</i></p> <p>13 <i>Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:</i></p> <p>14 <i>That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;</i></p> <p>Interestingly enough, they don't finish the thought Paul presents by reading verses 15 and 16 too – which we'll do in a minute.</p> <p>But let's list the offices here that Paul says were in Christ's original organization:</p>

	<p>Apostle and prophets (again in an order contrary to the LDS presentation)</p> <p>Evangelists -</p> <p>Pastors -</p> <p>Teachers.</p> <p>Do the LDS have evangelists?</p> <p>In the Greek, the name is “Yoo-angel-eestays” which means a preacher of the gospel.</p> <p>Do the LDS have pastors?</p> <p>In the Greek, the name is “poi-mane” and it means a shepherd.</p> <p>The LDS say this office is the same as a Bishop, but this is not so. A Bishop is an “episcope” which is the exact same office as that of an “elder” or “presbyter.”</p> <p>Biblically, an Elder, and a Bishop, and a Presbyter were all designated overseers of the church, but an Elder in the LDS church is not an overseer, nor is an Elder a Bishop or a Bishop an elder.</p> <p>Once again, this another point of their “seventeen” is rendered completely void of true biblical meaning.</p> <p>Then one could ask, if the true church must be the SAME church as what Jesus instituted, what about all the <i>additions</i> Mormonism has made to the Lord’s original Church?</p> <p>Did Christ’s church have first and second counselors, elder quorum presidents, relief society presidents, wards, ward clerks, stake presidents, stake high councilmen,</p>
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	<p>M-men and Gleaners, regional representatives, sun-beams, moon-beams, boy scouts, mia-maids, etc.. etc.?</p> <p>Come on, Latter-day Saints? Pony up here. Answer this!</p> <p>What does the Bible say about Deacons?</p> <p>It says that a deacon should be “found blameless,” that their “wife” should be “grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.” That they should be “the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well,” that “they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.”</p> <p>What is a “deacon” in the LDS church?</p> <p>He is a male child 12-13 years of age!</p> <p>How many of them are blameless? How many of them have wives that are “grave, not slanderers, sober, and faithful in all things?”</p> <p>Does this sound like the <i>same</i> church Jesus established?</p> <p>We’ll, I’m not going to belabor this point any longer.</p> <p>If there is <i>ONE</i> thing that was present in the Lord’s Church that is missing from Mormonism or there is <i>one</i> thing missing in Mormonism that is present in the Lord’s church, this fourth point is mute.</p>
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3)	
4)	
<p>(WRAP UP)</p> <p>Alright . . .</p> <p>If you are part of our national audience through Family Net, we bid you goodnight and Godspeed.</p> <p>But if you are watching locally, online, or listening through podcasts, well be back after this short commercial break to continue with your phone calls!</p>	
COMMERCIAL BREAK	
<p>Welcome back – my friends . . . and enemies. ☺</p> <p>Phone lines:</p>	

<p>(801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p> <p>While we wait for the operators to pass you along, let's talk about a few things.</p>	
<p>Last week we had two callers that perfectly summarize and defined the bottom-line issue between Mormonism and Christianity.</p> <p>On the one hand, we had an LDS caller named Aaron who stated that he knew - knew - that the Church was true by virtue of his feelings.</p> <p>I asked Aaron why his feelings - his experience with feeling peace were of greater value or could be trusted more than the Muslim or the Catholic or the Jehovah's Witnesses feelings and experiences were but all he could say in reply is he just knew they were.</p> <p>So we have a precedent of knowing truth by subjectively "feeling."</p> <p>Nothing that is proven, shown, illustrated, or examined to the contrary matters - all that matters is how a person "feels."</p> <p>This is what LDS ultimately turn to when presenting truth.</p> <p>On the other hand, we had a caller named Mike - from Boston - who passionately explained that the</p>	

bottom line issue is whether a person or a people-group accepts the Bible was the infallible Word of God.

If you do, all the feelings in the world do not matter in the least. What matters is what the Bible says.

The Bible is God's inoculation against human manipulation and persuasion.

It is the manual by which anyone seeking to know the truth can test and check their feelings against.

I could say that I feel having more than one wife is from God.

I could say that I feel I have a heavenly mother - that such feelings comfort me.

I could say I am certain - because I feel it - that there is no such place as hell.

OR . . . I can turn to God's Word and test my feelings against what He has to say about these things.

I've said this before, but the "liberals" of the world diminish God's Word and ways.

They reduce it, take from it, say that Jesus isn't who He claimed to be, say the Bible isn't an inspired book, say that the stories are merely mythical illustrations.

<p>And cultists and religious manipulators always add to God's Word!</p> <p>They say it isn't enough, we need more revelations, more writings, more "revealed truths of peace" to help us get along.</p> <p>At the end of the day, at the end of all that matters, I think a very simple measuring stick can be applied to test your Christianity:</p> <p>Do you accept God's Word or do you diminish it or add to it.</p>	
<p>As a result of this and many other conditions present within present day Mormonism, allow me to present to you an illustration and an invitation.</p> <p>When the Titanic set off into the Atlantic, the ships captain, a man named Smith proudly claimed it was unsinkable.</p> <p>The Titanic's occupants ranged from the super wealthy and elite to a group of lower class passengers who traveled in the lowest steerage levels of the boat.</p> <p>When the Titanic hit the iceberg, Smith reassured the elite class that there was "nothing to fear - that there was no danger."</p> <p>He was so persuasive that many of the upper crust arrogantly and errantly refused to board the lifeboats - believing there was</p>	

greater safety aboard the ship that in the small unassuming lifeboats.

As the situation became grim, and the band played, Lead Kindly Light, a hymn which speaks about Jesus and Jesus only leading the way, the steerage passengers – those folks without money or means – were pushed away, locked below, and even shot, so as to allow for the upper deck elitists to board the lifeboats first.

The Titanic disaster is a perfect illustration for Mormonism today.

Captain Smith said it is unsinkable while it's high society passengers have presently placed all their faith in trust in its thick hull.

But to the steerage passengers – those who have never believed it, never understood it, and have never been acceptable in it, I say

ABANDON SHIP!

Get on the lifeboats now and say:
Lead kindly light amidst encircling gloom
Lead thou me on!
The night is dark and you are far from home.
Lead THOU me on.

Abandon ship is the name we have chosen to get people to remove their names from the LDS membership records.

Go to bornagainmormon.com for

<p>more information.</p> <p>Send a message to the leadership!</p> <p>We're not going to take your elitist attitudes, you non-biblical teachings, and you promises of godhood anymore!</p> <p>Abandon Ship!</p> <p>If you want help on how to board the waiting liferafts, there are an abundance of on-line resources that can help you out:</p> <p>utlm.org bornagainmormon.com mormonnomore.org</p> <p>Send a message and abandon ship!</p>	

<p>Live! From the “Mecca of Mormonism” - THIS - Is Heart of the Matter!</p> <p><i>Where Mormonism meets Biblical Christianity face to face!</i></p>	<p>Show 22 Seventeen Points – Part VI Divine Authority May 20th 2008</p> <p>... And I’m your host, Shawn McCraney</p>
Streaming Video Announcement	
<p>Lord’sWord (GRAFFIC)</p>	<p>You know, we started getting together almost a year ago in downtown Salt Lake City to pray, worship, and study the Word of God.</p> <p>We call it Lord’sWord.</p> <p>We started Lord’sWord to help people sort of “test the water” of going to church who have otherwise been reticent to swim.</p> <p>We have no memberships. No dress codes. No freaky stuff.</p> <p>We worship the Lord with music. We pray together and for others. We study God’s Word</p> <p>All in an hours time.</p> <p>Join us, won’t you?</p> <p>Every Sunday morning at the Gateway Theaters downtown from 9:15 am to 10:15 am.</p>

	<p>We also meet Sunday evenings at the University of Utah for you guys who like to sleep in on Sundays.</p>
<p>Have you abandoned ship yet?</p> <p>Meaning, have you written you letter asking to be removed from the LDS Church records!</p> <p>Join us in Project Abandon Ship!</p> <p>Send a message loud and clear to Mormon headquarters:</p> <p>“Until you change your stance on this, this, and this, I want NOTHING to do with you . . . so take my name off your records. NOW!”</p> <p>Go to our website at Bornagainmormon.com or to UTLM.org for instructions on how to . . .</p> <p>ABANDON SHIP!</p> <p>Get free from the sinking ship and safe in the lifeboat of the Lord!</p>	
<p>If you listen closely you might hear some “cheers” from your LDS neighbors on this one – but I consider it “par for this course” we have chosen to walk.</p> <p>Last week we received a rather thick envelop from the Internal Revenue Service.</p> <p>It seems they have decided to challenge our ministries 501(c) 3 status as a tax-exempt corporation because of our 2007 December 11th show titled, “A Mormon President.”</p>	

The package – which actually included a copy of my notes for the show – contained a cover letter which read, in part:

“We are conducting an examination of your organization. At this time, the focus of our examination is limited to determining whether your organization intervened or participated in a political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, a candidate for public office.”

We were asked to supply detailed information to fifteen specific demands.

We are going to fight this investigation and seek your prayers on our behalf.

The day after I received the package by certified mail, I woke early and rode my bike to the beach before going to work.

In the neighborhood in which I live there are noise abatement laws.

- trucks cannot travel the streets of the area before 8am and no construction work or lawn mowing is supposed to occur before this designated time either – and this is a good thing, a good law.
- every Sunday morning – much to the behest of my daughters – starts his mower right at 8am and I’m sure if this law didn’t exist he would rev it up at 6!

So, I suppose this law is good.

Never the less, as I peddled my bike down the street a 5 something AM the other day, I noticed something I had not really considered before – the singing birds.

<p>Swallows, crows, seagulls were gathered in a cacophonous choir in the trees and on the telephone lines and light fixtures above.</p> <p>They were totally unconcerned and certainly unaware of the abatement laws of our community and just sang what they were meant to sing.</p> <p>Suddenly I was filled with joy. A smile crossed my face and I have to admit, I began to laugh out loud.</p> <p>So even though I probably looked like a lunatic that morning, riding my bike in the wee hours and laughing maniacally along the way, I realized that our job in this ministry is to sing the truth, regardless of whether our tax exempt status is in jeopardy or not.</p> <p>If God knows and cares for the sparrows of the air, I am certain He knows and cares for us too and I am confident all things will turn out as He desires and designs.</p> <p>So, onward, Christian soldiers.</p> <p>And with this, let's have a prayer.</p>	
PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER	
<p>We're still covering the Seventeen Points the LDS claim are signs of the True Church.</p> <p>The fifth point says:</p> <p>"The True Church must claim divine authority."</p> <p>I would have to agree. Anyone in the</p>	

employ of God - doing His bidding, sharing His Word, proclaiming the Gospel - must have and claim the authority from God, right?

Otherwise, they are just doing it “unto themselves.”

Where does the authority come from to serve God, anyway?

To speak, and teach, and/or preach His Word?

Now really think about this for a moment:

Jesus delivered the “good news.”

The Holy Spirit came at Pentecost to all men and women who believed.

We have a book called the Bible. It contains the Word of God

And Jesus said to those gathered at the great commission to go out into the world and teach and baptize, right?

What is required by God to be able to teach, pray over, preach to, and counsel others with the good News?

Organized and institutionalized religions have proposed and even demanded that a person must do “this thing,” or have “that thing,” or “jump through this hoop” or “fulfill that requirement” in order to act in God’s name.

Mormonism has developed an entire mythic-system of “priesthood” authority

which is so repeatedly reinforced to their members that action outside of it seems “indecent - even blasphemous.”

Now I really want to avoid being redundant in our topics here on the show, and so I remind viewers that we have examined the LDS “priesthood” claims in the past –

Shows _____ and

So tonight, I am going to give additional refutation for their claims to their mythically reconstituted priesthood claims.

LDS missionaries and teachers will present their “priesthoods” as necessary to the function and operation of the “true religion” and they usually use Hebrews 5:4 to support their stance.

It reads:

Heb 5:4 *“And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.”*

The missionaries will then usually ask an investigator:

“And how was Aaron called of God?”

“Well, I’m not sure?” comes the response.

Then the missionary will say something to the effect that “God has never let just anyone have His authority to do things in His name. Instead, He only let Aaron and his Sons have the honor and they were ordained to their work by the laying on of

hands by one holding the proper priesthood authority."

This is the same way God gives His authority today!

(then they bear testimony: "I want you to know, that I know . . .)

You see Joseph Smith claimed he received "the Aaronic priesthood authority" to act in God's name from John the Baptist and then the Melchizedek priesthood authority from Peter, James, and John.

Joseph then gave this supposed "restored priesthood authority" to other men by the laying on of hands, who in turn gave it to other men in the same LDS manner, and so on and so on, until the supposed priesthood authority has today been well re-established among worthy LDS males.

Trouble is discovered, like it is always discovered, when we look at the Bible for contextual meaning of priesthood.

In an attempt to set themselves up as the authoritatively restored true religion on earth - like the Children of Israel were prior to the coming of Jesus - Joseph resurrected concepts from the Old Testament priesthoods - including genealogical study - and applied it to his religious movement.

Therefore, because this supposed "authority" was miraculously (and I must add, suspiciously) restored to Joseph Smith and only passed down to their own male members over the years, no salvation or access to heaven is possible outside Mormonism!

Everyone want to lay claim to having the magic recipe, don't they? It always makes for bigger sales figures.

Now the "lesser priesthood" in Mormonism is called the Aaronic Priesthood – referring to Aaron.

It's the one the 12 year old boys get to "hold."

As I said, this was supposedly restored to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery in May of 1829.

Exodus 28 and 29 tells us what Aaron actually had to do in order to have this call "laid upon him" and I can assure you it includes far more than having hands laid on them.

Once a Mormon boy turns 18, he is eligible to receive the Melchizedek priesthood.

There is great suspicion as to whether there was ever an exact time or place when the Lord's apostles, "Peter, James, and John" gave Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery this priesthood.

I would strongly recommend Grant Palmer's *Insiders View of Mormon Origins* for an easy to read expose on this bit.

Anyway, the Doctrine and Covenants 107:2 states that the higher Mormon priesthood is called the Melchizedek Priesthood because Melchizedek was such a great High Priest.

We cover what the Melchizedek priesthood was and is in the earlier shows.

But in addition to what has been said

before, anyone who understands the New and Old Testaments can safely say some things relative to the LDS claim to these "priesthoods."

First, there has never been and never would be an Aaronic or a Melchizedek priesthood in the New Testament with the exception of Jesus Christ being our one and only High Priest after the order of Melchizedek.

God commanded that "priests" were to come directly through the tribe of Levi through Aaron and His Sons.

Most Mormons, based on their patriarchal blessings, supposedly come from the tribes of Ephraim or Manasseh!

And what important thing did these priests do (among others)? They offered BLOOD sacrifices! Why? In anticipation for Jesus to come!

Are the deacons, teachers, and Aaronic priesthood priests doing this today? NO.

In fact, no more blood sacrifices are needed – so no more Aaronic priests are needed – since, as Hebrews says

"Jesus offered one sacrifice for sins forever," on our behalf!

Do you see the problem of Joseph attempting to resurrect this Old Covenant priesthood AFTER the death and resurrection of Jesus!

And then there has only been ONE Melchizedek priest since Melchizedek roamed the earth as a picture of this one priest which was to come – JESUS CHRIST!

<p>Again, do you see the inherently sinister and presumptuous audacity Joseph had to say he had received this concocted priesthood from Peter, James, and John and then has passed it on to men today?</p> <p>That there are men today who claim to be “High Priests who hold the Melchizedek Priesthood” when there has only ever been one High Priest holding a Melchizedek Priesthood – and His name again, is Jesus Christ!</p> <p>I want to warn you right now, my friends, you are messing with fire with these claims. Absolute fire.</p> <p>Which is another good reason to “Abandon Ship!”</p>	
<p>Well, what biblical supports are there (besides the ones we’ve already spoke of tonight and other shows) for priesthoods in Christianity?</p>	
<p>First, let’s talk about genealogy.</p> <p>The reason for endless genealogies in the Old Testament and the Gospels was to show lineage.</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>Because it was evidenced in the lineage of a man whether he was permitted to hold the Levitical priesthoods and what line or family tribe from where they originated.</p> <p>But guess what happened?</p> <p>When Jesus was alive He foretold that Jerusalem would fall.</p>	

And it did.

Titus, in 70 A.D. came in and guess what God allowed him to destroy?

All of the genealogical records of the Jews.

These records had been tediously kept for a thousand years plus and in one fell swoop – GONE.

Why?

Because the authority to act in God's name, by virtue of the death of Christ and as evidenced by the tearing of the veil, was given to all people.

All believers are part of this chosen generation, all believers are included in this royal priesthood – all – men, dwarfs, maimed, women, teens, blacks – black dwarf women – ALL.

Get it!

This is why 1st Timothy 1:4 admonishes believers to:

"Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do."

Titus 3:9 says

"But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain."

Get it?

Do you see the connection to between it

being our faith that allows us to take action in God's kingdom today and not a lineal priesthood authority and it is also by our faith that we are saved and NOT by the works or deeds of the Law?

The Jewish System was discarded for a system of grace, my friends!

Neither Paul, nor Peter ever claimed to be priests – Melchizedek or Aaronic – but only in the sense that every Christian becomes a royal priest by virtue of their faith in Jesus' finished work!

Salvation comes by faith in the FINISHED WORK of Jesus Christ, not in a savior who paid for sin but re-established a priestly hierarchy whereby men save themselves through ordinances and rituals!

There were perhaps no more religious people on earth – and perhaps will never be a more religiously observant people on earth – than the Jewish Pharisees.

He unquestionably had the right authority, he without a doubt belonged to "the true Church" in that it contained the system God has so instituted to please Him.

The Pharisee was by men's standards, a very good man. A very pious man. A very religious man.

There is a story in Luke where a Pharisee stood and prayed, saying:

"God, I thank thee that I am not like other men are – extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. Why, I fast twice a week and I give tithes of all I possess."

Now a publican must have been standing near-by. He was a Jew who was in the friendly employ of the Roman conquerors. And he collected inflated taxes from his own Jewish brothers, paid the Romans less, and kept the remainder for himself.

He was a moral mess, to the Pharisees.

He held no authority. Was in this case possibly an unjust extortion bearing adulterer with no cleanliness, priesthood, or works to present!

And what was his prayer?

“God be merciful to me, a sinner.”

Jesus, in telling this story asks:

Which of these went home “justified?”

The man with the pedigree, works, and righteousness, or the degraded publican?

Jesus said, The publican went home justified!

Let me wrap tonight’s monologue up with a biblical truth that sort-of exemplifies this story and what we have been speaking of tonight.

It is a biblical gospel truth which the LDS and other religionists HATE to hear, let alone consider as true.

In apartment 2 lives a man who had never, ever helped anyone with anything in his life, had been mean, and bitter, and stingy, and angry, violent, and abusive – a man who lived every single day for himself - and in apartment 3 lives a man who loved

<p>people, served people endlessly, gave his money to the poor, walked dogs, and was polite to all but on the last day of his life.</p> <p>One afternoon, a giant neutron bomb was dropped out of an airplane and fell hurling toward the roofs of apartments 2 and 3.</p> <p>Right before the bomb was dropped, the man in apartment 2 came to believe in Jesus in his heart and confessed Him with His mouth, and the man in apartment 3 renounced Jesus as necessary to his going to heaven but instead believed it was his life and action that would qualify him – which would live eternally with God?</p> <p>Let's go to the phones:</p> <p>(801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p>	
<p>EMAILS</p> <p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p>	

Hey, check out our website at bornagainmormon.com for more information about what is going on in the ministry, for free access to all of our archived shows and for recent news. God bless you all. We'll see you next week, here, on Heart of the Matter.	

<p>LIVE!</p> <p>From the “Mecca of Mormonism” SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH!</p> <p>This is Heart of the Matter . . .</p> <p>“Where Mormonism meets Biblical Christianity face to face.”</p>	<p>Show 23 Seventeen Points of the “True Church” – Part VII – “Paid Clergy”</p> <p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p> <p>We have a very special show for you tonight because after a brief message, we’re going to have my wife and two youngest daughters here to help me answer your questions and to take your calls!</p>
Streaming Video Announcement	
www.bornagainmormon.com for information from the show.	
<p>Other News/Comments or Emails?</p> <p>1)</p> <p>2)</p>	

3)	
4)	
5)	
Prayer Prayer Prayer	
<p>Before we invite the family on set, let me briefly cover one of the most absurd and even contradictory charges unthinking LDS people make as a requisite sign for being “the true Church.”</p> <p>Ready?</p> <p>Number six of Seventeen:</p>	

“The true church must have no paid clergy.”

And they use Bible passages from Isaiah and 1st Peter to support this not-just unbiblical claim, but this anti-biblical claim which they are hypocritically guilty of breaking!

You know, this is a MAJOR theme of derision for LDS missionaries and defenders of the LDS church.

They LOVE to pull the “your only doing this for money” card, and they think themselves justified in using it because their local level leadership – at the Stake level and below – serve on a voluntary basis.

We’ll talk about this in more depth in a minute.

So first, let’s take a look at these passages that come along with their claim that the “true Church must have no paid clergy.”

Isaiah 45:13

Listen to this one:

“I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways: he shall build my city, and he shall let go my captives, not for price nor reward, saith the LORD of hosts.”

What does this have to do with paid clergy – either directly or indirectly – nothing at all. Nothing.

This passage refers to Cyrus, and what he

did for the Jews – as a type of Christ.

The second verse they use, which is at least applicable to the topic in question says

1st Peter 5:2:

“Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;”

But again, what is the context of this verse?

Pastors are without a doubt called to feed the flock of God.

This is wisdom and the desire of God’s heart. And what do pastor feed the flock with? THE WORD OF THE LORD.

Not by constraint, but willingly.

Not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind.”

No problem. Whatever pastor would get into the ministry FOR filthy lucre should get out – this is all it is saying.

The warning has no bearing on whether pastors or ministers of the gospel are permitted to receive financial support for their labors.

So while the LDS love to infer that this passage means that a pastor or minister cannot receive pay for his work in the ministry, the BIBLE teaches the opposite!

Paul wrote in 1Ti 5:17

“Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they

who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward."

What does this mean?

It means that pastors - especially those who labor in the Word and Doctrine - could and should receive compensation for their labors.

Jesus said the same thing to His apostles in Matthew 10:10

"Take no scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat."

No enough to convince you?

David wrote in the Proverbs:

(27:18) Whoso keepeth the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof: so he that waiteth on his master shall be honoured.

In making a case for the right of ministers of the Gospel to actually be compensated, Paul said in 1st Corinthians 9 -

(1st Corinthians 9:7)

"Who serves as a soldier at his own wages at any time? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who feeds a flock and does not partake of the milk of the flock? Do I say these things according to man? Or does not the Law say the same also? For it is written in the law of

Moses, "You shall not muzzle the mouth of the ox treading out grain." Does God take care for oxen? Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? It was written for us, so that he who plows should plow in hope, and so that he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown to you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?

He ends with

"Even so, the Lord ordained those announcing the gospel to live from the gospel."

Funny that the LDS omit these passages when promoting their claim that nobody in the ministry should be paid.

Now, if God - as the scriptures teach - allows people to be supported supported by those who are being fed, God must know that this is the best system all things considered for a minister of the gospel.

Taking all the other expectations into account - that they are humble, have one wife, are hospitable, are not drunkards, etc. - it seems like a very reasonable and fair way to care for God's teachers.

After all, the Levitical priests lived off the offerings in the Old Covenant, right?

So what, then, does it mean to have shepherds who are not paid leading the flock?

I have given this a lot of thought over the years.

If a congregationally supported pastor's job is to feed the sheep the Word of God week in and week out, and to counsel them using the word, and to oversee them relative to the Word, what would the duties of a non-paid local-level clergy be?

I mean, these many of these so-called lay "leaders" in the LDS church are called up from out of the pews and have never even read the Bible through!

So what is their purpose of this local level lay leadership?

To ensure obedience.

To maintain the status quo.

To counsel, using the prescribed LDS guides.

And to advance their members up in the Church - which includes helping them to pay tithes.

How is a person placed in this local level lay leadership?

Through worthiness interviews and by proving themselves in previous callings.

In the end, where the burden of supporting a single pastor (who is well-studied in the Word and willing to teach the Sheep), the LDS get as many of their members PAYING for the opportunity to possibly become a clergyman and they advance those who will be most effective at getting others to do the same!

If all we are talking about is money, which

scenario is more dastardly:

A single standing church that has a pastor who loves the Lord, studies His Word and teaches it to His congregation for a fair and reasonable salary which is obtained by the free gifts of the people

OR

A multi-national institutionalized corporation where everyone must pay 10% of their income to both enter into a temple in order to get to heaven and to have a shot at “managing” a group of member-peers, but never truly teaching God’s Word.

The Lord knew what He was doing when He set His church up.

Yes, there are many instances where men have taken advantage of the set up and served themselves.

But this happens in all churches lay clergy or not.

Of all the seventeen points the LDS use as signs of the “true Church” this is one of the most misrepresented and misapplied.

But this is only part of the problem with the claim.

The second half of the issue comes from the Latter-day Saints themselves – HAVE A PAID CLERGY!

A big one.

All of their Church Educational System teachers are paid – and what is a pastor if nothing more than Church Education!

All of the Churches Apostles are paid – why because they are full-time. We’ll so are pastors full time – more than full time – believe me.

All of the SLC hierarchy are paid.

I would be willing to bet that Thomas S. Monson, who started as a very very young leader in the LDS Church is a multi-millionaire!

How did this happen since almost all of His working adult life he has been in the employ of the Church?

Bottom-line to all this?

The Bible – meaning God – Old and New Testament fully supports the idea of pastors being paid for their labors in the Lord’s vineyard.

It doesn’t mean they HAVE to be paid, but it is well within the pervue of God.

Mormonism has a more taxing (no pun intended) approach to money and religion and implements it mandatorilly upon all of its members seeking to get to the highest degree of the celestial kingdom AND those wishing to be placed in a voluntary leadership position.

Finally, Mormonism hypocritically pays wages to the higher echelon of full time leaders, contrary to the claim that the “true Church” cannot have such a thing.

Another point of the Seventeen proven absolutely ridiculous.

would your Dad think about this?"

Delaney? Cassidy?

3) To Shawn's Shorty

"Why have you remained with this fruitcake when you could have a real man like me? - THE MAN

4) To Shawn's wife:

"What about your family? How do they react to Shawn's ministry?"

5) To the McCraney girls

"I met you at the park last summer. Do your LDS friends know who your Dad is and what he says about the Church? How have your LDS friends that do know what he does treated you? Are you embarrassed to talk about him with them?"

6) To Family

"What do you like about being Mormon and what do you like about the Christianity you have found. And then the reverse."

7) To girls

"Do you think your LDS friends or family are going to hell? What about you? Do you believe in hell?"

8) *Where do you all go to church now? What are the most obvious differences between the two religions?*

To girls

9) *Who were you voting for – David Cook or David Achelleto? Why?*

To Mary

10) *Many people say your husband is doing what he is doing because he is evil or he is out for money or he is deceived. What do you think*

<i>is driving him?</i>	
<p>We'll we've three minutes left . . . what a great time to have the three of you on the show.</p> <p>Any parting thoughts?</p> <p>Delaney:</p> <p>Cassidy:</p> <p>Maria:</p>	

<p>LIVE! From the “Mecca of Mormonism”</p> <p>This is Heart of the Matter</p> <p>- “Where Mormonism meets biblical Christianity face to face.”</p>	<p><i>24 Seventeen Points – Part VIII</i> <i>“Baptized by Immersion for the Remission of sins by one holding the proper authority.”</i> <i>June 3rd 2008</i></p> <p>I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>Streaming video at www.bornagainmormon.com OR www.hotm.tv</p>	
<p>“I Was a Born-Again Mormon”</p>	<p>Ask your local bookstore – most carry it.</p> <p>If they don’t have them contact us by going to the website.</p> <p>Of course, you can always get the book from us at our website – and we offer it free to those who CANNOT afford one.</p> <p>Also, let me remind you that if you want to watch ANY of our past shows they are ALL available online at our website at . . . ???</p> <p>www.bornagainmormon.com!</p>
<p>Hey . . .</p> <p>How are you coming along on “Project Abandon Ship?”</p> <p>Send a message, my friends. Let them know up there on the North Temple Tower that you are going to stand up and lose these chains for good!</p>	

<p>Get your name off the membership rolls of Mormonism and into the Lambs book of life.</p> <p>Renounce the temple rites.</p> <p>Renounce polygamy as a true principle before, now, and forever!</p> <p>Renounce these false priesthoods, this country-club elitism, and the false doctrines that holds millions bound.</p> <p>Abandon Ship!</p> <p>Go to www.UTLM.org , our website, or www.mormonnomore.com for more information on exactly how to do it.</p>	
<p>Hey, many of you have heard or seen the LDS missionaries use this piece written by (I think) Hugh Nibley on what it would take for you to write the Book of Mormon.</p> <p>It is a boat load of hyperbolic language that says things like:</p> <p>“You would have to have been nearly illiterate, a hay seed, innocent of all knowledge, and composed the book in a matter of weeks ” stuff like that.</p> <p>Well check this three minute video response out sent by Micah and Celeste. Pretty humorous:</p>	<p>(play Youtube clip)</p>
<p>Well we received quite a bit of response from last weeks show.</p>	

Many of you appreciated the show because my wife and daughters were here speaking about being LDS and becoming Christian.

Thank you for your kind comments and support – and for the patient understanding.

Some of the LDS, however, accused me of “misleading” the audience by saying that my family is LDS when they are obviously NOT.

One critic who is LDS wrote:

“It seems you have not been completely upfront about some things (what a surprise). You always say your wife is LDS. From her responses, she is not. You always make it seem like she is active in the church. I am very sorry for you. You are leading your family AWAY from Christ.”

You know, sometimes, I really don’t know what to say.

My wife has a wonderful relationship with the Stake President of the Stake in which she lives. He assists and supports her with all manner of things related to the Church.

She attends the church with her mother.

She attends with my daughters.

Her name is still on the records of the

	<p>LDS church.</p> <p>But she doesn't believe what is considered proprietary Mormon doctrine.</p> <p>Is she alone in this state, Mr. Critic Ridiculous?</p> <p>Not in the least.</p> <p>She is LDS by membership but she is a Christian doctrinally.</p> <p>If this messy situation makes you all puckery, go down another anti-depressant and bear your testimony to someone who cares.</p>
	<p>We also have a number of people who ranged in emotion from being "disappointed to being down right appalled" at the way I handled an LDS caller last week.</p> <p>Many thought I was "too aggressive," not "loving enough," or just "rude and impolite" because I didn't give him a chance to present "his LDS views and perspective."</p> <p>There were even a number of Christians who were disturbed by my attitude.</p> <p>Let me explain a few things here, okay?</p> <p>First, I KNOW the caller. I've met him face to face, know his history, and KNOW his intentions as a defender of the faith.</p>

	<p>He is not calling to learn, or dialogue, or gain wisdom – HE’S NOT A SEEKER! He’s a self-appointed LDS apologist and his purpose is to debate, argue, spin, muddy the waters, and create reasonable doubt in the minds of searching people.</p> <p>To give this particular caller “a voice” would be antithetical to our purposes – which is to clarify, not obfuscate the issues.</p> <p>To handle him with what some of you call “love” is what he preys upon because then he can then dominate the conversation with half truths.</p> <p>Now when <i>searching</i> LDS people call WITHOUT an agenda, you will hear me respond to them in kind tones and patience and all manner of indulgence.</p> <p>I think I understand the process and difficulty of being an “LDS seeker.”</p> <p>But I know the language and nuances of the self-appointed apologists.</p> <p>My giving him a voice on this show would be akin to giving an foaming member of the KKK the microphone at a NAACP rally!</p> <p>Not wise.</p> <p>Not productive.</p> <p>And it isn’t gonna happen.</p> <p>(beat)</p> <p>One final thing bears repeating that is</p>
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	<p>related to this topic:</p> <p>Heart of the Matter is NOT a show that seeks to give equal time to true believing Mormons.</p> <p>I care not one whit about being friends with LDS defenders of the faith or self-appointed apologists.</p> <p>I could give a rats aspartame to have a loving dialogue so we can all be friends.</p> <p>It is a show where we CONFRONT Mormonism WITH biblical Christianity.</p> <p>We want to be a place seekers can trust to get a fair comparison between what the LDS have long called doctrine and what the Bible clearly teaches as truth.</p>
<p>Finally, we had a great outpouring of response relative to the LDS stance on "paid clergy."</p> <p>J. Fox wrote:</p> <p><i>"I know what you are up to. I knew this was all about the money. Can't you work like everyone else and still preach your false doctrine? You go out and purchase a cheesy pair of "preacher glasses" typical of all Born-Again Freak Ministers . . . the attire does not work.</i></p> <p><i>I think you are a thief. Go to the mountain my friend and get educated. Do something with your life."</i></p> <p>In a little less personal response, Elliott</p>	

wrote:

"No one in the Lord's true and restored Church receives filthy lucre for serving God. Some men who have dedicated all their time and talents and energies to His work are reimbursed for their living expenses, but are not getting rich like you Christian televangelists."

Well a great researcher and supporter of our ministry – John M – did some outstanding digging for us relative to the financial side of Mormonism.

Remember, no true church, no "restored gospel" could have a paid clergy. Right?

According to D. Michael Quinn in The Mormon Hierarchy – Extensions of Power . . .

Stake Patriarchs charged \$1.00 per blessing. This increased to \$2.00 by the end of the 19th century.

Strangely, Patriarchs encouraged the faithful to receive numerous blessings over the course of their lives.

Hmmmm?

During Brigham Young's reign, Bishop's took whatever they desired from all non-cash tithing donations.

In 1844, John Taylor limited Bishops to eight percent of the tithing collected while Stake Presidents got two percent of all the tithing collected by the Bishops in their stakes!

No PAID CLERGY!

This was freaking multi-level clergy
up-line the church is true income!

(whew)

In 1888, Wilford Woodruff established
SET SALARIES for stake presidents
and set up committees to allocate ten
percent of the tithes collected in the
stake between the Bishops.

At the April 1896 General Conference,
the first presidency announced an end
to salaries for local officers and to only
pay the “ahem” apostles of the Lord
Jesus Christ.

By 1904, Stake Presidents were
receiving \$300.00 per year for their
work, and as late as 1920 some Bishops
reported to still have been receiving
10% of the tithes collected in their
wards.

So, by 1896, only the apostles were to
receive a set salary.

Now we know this is no longer true,
but what about the apostles and their
salaries?

These special witnesses of the Lord
Jesus Christ who are no different in
their divine call than the original
twelve, how are they (ahem)
compensated?

First, they do receive money from the
coffers of the church. How much I do
not know.

Second, they can write a book – especially as an apostles – and have a built-in market of at least 10 million people.

Last week, I said that I would be willing to bet that Thomas S. Monson was a multi-millionaire but questioned how he would acquire such wealth being a “non-paid” church employee for most of his life.

Someone called the show and said that they had heard that these apostles were conveniently placed as directors on the boards for church owned or church friendly companies and this was how they continued to amass wealth.

According to Quinn’s research in Extensions of Power – page 220-222 – this caller was correct.

Now to be a “director” in a company usually means six day long board meetings per year and a weeks worth of committee participation annually.

According to CNN Money.com, the average annual director compensation in 2006 was as follows:

A director in the manufacturing sector received \$109,000. per year.

A director in financial services received an average of \$83,000.00 per year.

And a director in the service Sector received an average of \$106,250.00 per year.

<p>Quinn researched the first presidency and the twelve apostles in 1984.</p> <p>Here is what he found –</p> <p>(see sheet)</p> <p>A latter-day Saint must go to the temple to live with God in the celestial kingdom.</p> <p>Paying tithing (10%) is mandatory to enter the temple.</p> <p>Tithing dollars were and are used to buy businesses for the Church.</p> <p>“Apostles” are made directors of these businesses and receive directors compensation for their positions.</p> <p>No paid clergy? Right.</p>	
<p>Let’s get a head start on opening the phone lines tonight</p> <p>(801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p> <p>And let’s have a prayer before we speak about tonight’s topic – baptism in the “true Church.”</p>	
<p>The seventh point of the “True Church” as proposed by the LDS is that the true church must:</p> <p>“Baptized by Immersion”</p>	

<p>We'll, I have no problem with this.</p> <p>Baptism by immersion seems to best fit its historical ties to Judaic conversion rites and to the ultimate meaning of the ordinance.</p> <p>Baptism is best understood as a means of identification.</p> <p>We identify with something through the act of baptism.</p> <p>There are at least SEVEN different types of baptisms discussed in the Bible, all of them applied in different ways.</p> <p>There are wet baptisms, dry baptisms, and even damp baptisms. But I'm not going to talk about the differences tonight.</p> <p>I am going to simply agree with the statement that a "true Church" would baptize by immersion.</p> <p>But is this where Mormonism stops when it comes to baptism?</p> <p>No.</p> <p>They also add that baptism is for . . .</p> <p>"the remission of sins by one holding the proper authority."</p> <p>Let's first talk about this bit about baptism being for the "remission of sins."</p>	

There is one and only ONE way to receive a remission of sins – through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

Not baptism.

Not temple ordinances.

Not being shot by a firing squad.

Matthew 26:28 *For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*

Acts 10:43 *To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.*

1st Peter 1:18 *“knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, silver or gold, from your vain manner of life handed down from your fathers,
19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot;
20 indeed having been foreknown before the foundation of the world, but revealed in the last times for you,
21 those believing in God through Him, He who raised Him up from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope might be in God.*

Now one of the verses the LDS use to tie the remission of sins to the event of baptism is

In Acts 2:38 it says:

“Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of

Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Now the Bible is clear on what is necessary for salvation, so how should this verse be taken in light of the word as a whole?

The key to this verse is the Greek.

"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ FOR the remission of sins . . ."

In the Greek, "for" is "eis," a preposition that can indicate causality (in order to attain) OR it is a resultant preposition (because of).

So let's read this verse with a causal preposition.

"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ in order to attain a remission of sins . . ."

Now let's read it with the preposition being resultant.

"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ because you have received a remission of sins . . ."

Guess what sense the **preposition** is used here in this verse?

(da,da,da,dahhhh)

The RESULTANT

The verse should read:

"Repent and be baptized every one of

you BECAUSE OF (or as a result of) the remission of sins!"

This is why we get baptized my friends! Because we have been forgiven, NOT to get forgiven!

Now, why would a child get baptized in Mormonism who has no sin?

More importantly, WHY would Jesus be baptized?

Certainly NOT for a remission of sin.

Now another verse LDS like to use to prove Baptism is necessary to be saved is:

1st Peter 3:21 ¶ The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of *a good conscience toward God,*) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

(EXPLAIN)

Another is

Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

(EXPLAIN)

Because of these verses, the LDS and even some Christian religions have made baptism "a must" to salvation and FOR the remission of sins – NOT TRUE.

What does Romans 10:10 say?

Romans 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

What did Jesus say to the thief on the cross?

Finally, in addition to immersion (which is highly debatable, and the line "for a remission of sin," the LDS also demand that baptism must take place by "one holding the proper priesthood authority."

We have discussed at length the fallacy of this "resurrected priesthood" Joseph Smith introduced as recently as four weeks ago, but let me repeat on short story found in Mark and Luke that reveals the Lord's heart regarding this issue:

Luke 9:49

"John said, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name; and we forbad him, because he followeth not with us."

Now the LDS would have you believe that only someone with the "proper priesthood authority" can cast out devils, and baptize, and do other things in Jesus name.

But what does Jesus say to this?

50 *"Forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us."*

<p>Rest assured, the true Churches that follow the Lord Jesus will baptize – in some form or another – but it is NOT to remit anyone’s sins and the only authority they do it by is the authority given by those who believe on Him who died to save us all.</p> <p>Let’s go to the phones!</p>	
<p>EMAILS:</p> <p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p> <p>7</p> <p>8</p>	

<p>Hey, thanks for your prayers and support from all over the world!</p> <p>Next week, we'll proceed through several more of the Seventeen Points!</p> <p>Until that time, God bless . . . and we'll see you here on "Heart of the Matter!"</p>	
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<p>LIVE!</p> <p>From the Mecca of Mormonism! SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH This is Heart of the Matter!</p> <p>“Where Mormonism meets Christianity Face to Face!”</p>	<p>Show 25 - The John 3:3 Seminar</p> <p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>Streaming Video Announcement</p>	
<p>We would like to take a moment and thank each and every one of you for your support.</p> <p>Your emails, prayers, and other means of helping Alatheia Ministries is greatly appreciated and for the most part goes unrecognized – here on earth, at least.</p> <p>We could not make the inroads we are making without you and we thank you so very much and thank God for your faith.</p>	
<p>No matter what a person does in their life, there are always those times when you step back in your mind and ask, “Am I really doing what I am supposed to be doing?”</p> <p>Admittedly, I have had a few occasions to ask myself this very question relative to our ministry to the Mormons.</p> <p>Last weekend was especially troubling because as I had this thought on my mind, I drove along Fourth South past the Gay Pride Festival in downtown Salt Lake City.</p> <p>As I made my way East on the street, I passed by two separate groups of men who</p>	

thought it suitable and well within their rights of public expression to lift their shirts and rub their nipples seductively as I drove by.

It was a bacchanalian festival of humanism, focused entirely on the worship of Man and the Self.

I wasn't sad and ashamed for these people. I wasn't hateful toward them as individuals, but I detested what they were promoting and was overwhelmingly embarrassed for their humanity.

And I wondered, again, if my efforts wouldn't be better served focusing on societal elements like this rather than on a Church that represents families and clean living.

Later that evening when I spoke with Mary I was reminded why I do what I do.

That morning she took our youngest daughter to the LDS church for a missionary farewell.

In that meeting they sang the LDS "hymn" "Praise to the Man."

Our youngest asked her Mom what the song was about and when Mary explained to her that it was about Joseph Smith, she was unnerved.

I recalled hearing the song sung in the Mission Training Center years ago. Tears flowed from the eyes of all present as one man operatically worshipped another.

*"Hail to the prophet!
Ascend into heaven!"*

<p><i>Traitors and tyrants, Now fight him in vein. Mingling with God's He can plan for his brethren Death shall not concur the hero again."</i></p> <p>Mingling with God's? Mingling with God's? Mingling with God's?</p> <p>What the heck does this mean?</p> <p>Bad-mitten on Wednesday? Sunday brunch?</p> <p>Last Sunday on the KBYU Channel they aired a tribute to Joseph Smith.</p> <p>The narrator actually said:</p> <p>"And God was Joseph Smith's right hand man."</p> <p>(beat)</p> <p>Man-worship is everywhere.</p> <p>And I am - once again - secure in the knowledge that my attentions are focused in the right direction.</p>	
<p>This next segment is going to be presented without any commentary.</p> <p>You come to your own conclusions.</p> <p>HISTORY OF CHENEY MEETING:</p>	<p>(Run Cheney video)</p>

<p>PRESIDENT BUSH’S VISIT A FEW WEEKS AGO:</p>	<p>(Show SL Trib photo)</p>
<p>And with this, let’s have a prayer.</p>	
<p>We’re going to interrupt our analysis of the “Seventeen Points of the True Church” in order to present our ministries method for reaching the LDS with the truth of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Please take a moment and grab your Bibles as there are a few passages that you will want to mark if you are interested.</p> <p>It is our intention that people – churches, Christian Missionaries, etc. – will use this show to train their congregates on a method for sharing Jesus with the LDS.</p> <p>If you are LDS and are watching tonight, I would invite you to take our challenge on your own.</p>	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>Our approach to reaching the LDS is somewhat unique.</p> <p>As a result, it has been misunderstood by many Christians and critics which utilize more traditional methods of helping LDS people have “eyes to see and ears to hear.”</p> <p>We believe that one of the most responsible and effective ways to share the biblical Jesus with searching Latter-day Saints is through a discussion on being born-again.</p>	

<p>But more on this in a moment.</p> <p>Now, let me suggest a few “foregone conclusions” that should be understood for anyone yearning to share the Biblical gospel with Latter-day Saints.</p>	
<p>I. FOREGONE CONCLUSIONS</p> <p>1. “God does the converting”</p> <p>2. Every fish is different</p> <p>3. Audience: seekers vs. stalwarts</p>	<p>Think it is us. Our methods. Our words. He is at the helm and reaches people INSPITE of our efforts.</p> <p>Fishermen employ a number of different approaches and means depending on the fish they are seeking to catch!</p> <p>Lines Bait Lures Weights Casting Reeling techniques Landing techniques</p> <p>No ONE sure method! God uses them all.</p> <p>We cast no criticism on anyones approach, but believe there are some methods that are more effective than others ALL THINGS CONSIDERED.</p> <p>So who are you speaking to?</p>

We would suggest that there is wisdom in reaching the lost and searching Latter-day Saints over the “stalwarts” BUT BY ALL MEANS PLANT SEEDS wherever you are sowing!

CHURCH STATS

Claim 13 million on record.
Four to five million worthy recommend holders.

Leaves a solid seven to eight million people who are either dangling, wandering, or not stalwart enough to tow the LDS line of bondage.

This is a primary audience.

They seek because they are “sinners” because they are empty inside, because they are over-burdened, because Mormonism has failed them.

They also seek because they are intelligent, and can see the issues.

Good friend when asked what caused him to leave Mormonism Says, “I gotta library card!”

The internet is forcing many LDS to see – for the first time ever – what their history has been and what they really teach and believe.

It’s also a foregone conclusion that if your are going to share with a Latter-day Saint, some personal preparation is

<p>4. Personal Preparation: Born-again/prayer/faith/patience</p> <p>5. “It is perhaps the best counterfeit on earth” – KTW!</p>	<p>suggested.</p> <p>Finally, the better you know the Word of God, the more adept you will be at answering and sharing Jesus.</p> <p>You don’t necessarily need to know Mormonism, but you really should know Christianity.</p>
<p>Now methods matter.</p> <p>They mattered to Jesus.</p> <p>There are a variety of methods people use to reach out to the LDS.</p> <p>Some are more effective, and some are more damaging, than others.</p> <p>Let’s talk about the pros and cons of the seven most used methods people use to “reach” the LDS.</p> <p>II. <u>METHODS MATTER</u> – <i>the pros and cons of sharing methods</i></p> <p>1. The “It’s all good” method.</p> <p>2. The “argumentation, intimidation, and/or ridicule” method.</p>	

<p>3. The “Silent modeling” method</p> <p>4. The “Shock and Awe” method</p> <p>5. The “Information without condemnation” Method</p> <p>6. The “Truth in love” / “Compassionate boldness” Method”</p> <p>7. Finally, our method, which we have warmly called “The Mormon Road or John 3:3 Method.</p>	
<p>III. <u>THE JOHN 3:3 APPROACH:</u> <i>“Have you been born-again?”</i></p>	

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Lord's Imperative (John 3:3) 2. Is Everything New? (2nd Corinthians 5:17) 3. Not a birthright (John 1:12-13) 4. Why does it happen? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The result of experiencing God <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Isaiah 6:5 ii. Daniel 10:10 and 15 iii. Luke 5:8 5. How does it happen? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Titus 3:3-8 	
<p>CONCLUSION:</p>	

<p>Let's go to the phones. (801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prefer 1st time callers • love LDS callers • please turn your televisions down 	
<p>Emails while we wait</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 	

6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
Hey, if you are in the greater Utah or Idaho area, we are having a Northern Utah river baptism and fellowship on Saturday July 12 th .	

<p>Live!</p> <p>From the “Mecca of Mormonism” SALT LAKE CITY! This is Heart of the Matter.</p> <p>Where Mormonism Meets Biblical Christianity Face to Face!</p>	<p>Show 26 A Veritable Cornucopia June 17th 2008</p> <p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>STREAMING VIDEO Go to:</p> <p>www.hotm.tv</p> <p>43 hour long shows in 2006 52 hour long shows in 2007 And 25 shows (so far) in 2008!</p> <p>That’s . . . that’s . . . that’s 120 hours of sheer but factual entertainment, folks!</p>	
<p>Now let me give you another quick tutorial on the web locations of our ministry.</p> <p>Ready?</p> <p>(See handout from Micah)</p>	<p>(RUN GRAGHIC)</p>
<p>Alright, last week, I made an error! (I know, I know, it’s hard to believe, but it’s true.)</p> <p>We were talking about seven methods people use to reach the LDS:</p> <p>These methods were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The “It’s all good” method. 2. The “argumentation, intimidation, 	

and/or ridicule” method.

3. The “Silent modeling” method
4. The “Shock and Awe” method
5. The “Information without condemnation” Method
6. The “Truth in love” /
“Compassionate boldness” Method”
7. Finally, our method, which we have warmly called “The Mormon Road or John 3:3 Method.”

Now, I made an error by lumping two methods (that are in actuality very different) together under number 6, which I called the Truth in Love/Compassionate Boldness Method.

I did this because I wasn’t really thinking to awfully hard and I apologize.

You see, Truth in Love is the water passing out guys at conference who say, “God bless you, God bless you” but I’m not so sure how much truth is really shared.

And the Compassionate Boldness Crew is very focused on sharing the truth of Mormonism boldly but compassionately.

Compassionate Boldness actually belongs in category five which I labeled “Information without condemnation,” a method I appreciate and which we placed Sandra Tanner’s Utah Lighthouse Ministry and Living Hope Ministry under.

Hope this clarification and apology does some good.

"I Was A Born-Again Mormon"

(SHOW GRAPHIC)

If you want a little better insight into what it really means to be born again (and how it occurs) pick up a copy.

It's available at

- Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa
- Lifeway Christian Bookstore in Salt Lake City
- Utah Lighthouse Ministry (utlm.org)
- Newlife Christian Store in Layton
- Gift of Grace in Springville
- Christian Gift and Bible in Sandy
- Calvary Chapel Salt Lake City
- Amazon.com
- And of course at our website at www.bornagainmormon.com

Please patronize your local Christian booksellers or ministries as these sales are part of their lifeblood.

If you really cannot afford the book OR you are not willing to support the ministry but are interested in reading it, we'll send you

	one for free.
<p>Listen, if you have left received Jesus and been born-again and have left Mormonism either physically or officially, we would like to interview you.</p> <p>So join us here at our studios between 9am and 6pm on Sunday, July 6th so we can tape your story.</p> <p>Please don't be shy.</p> <p>And if you are worried about being exposed, we'll even disguise you!</p> <p>How's that.</p> <p>Go to hotm.tv for directions to the station and instructions if you are willing to participate.</p> <p>Remember, your testimony may influence a generation.</p> <p>Please join us.</p>	
<p>Hey, how's your participation in Project Abandon Ship going?</p> <p>Got a couple of emails this week regarding the project, which is to get your name of the membership records of the LDS Church - today! (see two emails)</p>	
<p>Hey! We are going to hold our Northern Utah Open Water Baptism on Saturday, July 12 at four PM.</p> <p>We've already had at least ten people state that</p>	

<p>they want to use this time to publicly profess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and a life dedicated to Him.</p> <p>The only questions we ask is regarding your faith in Him.</p> <p>You're not joining a church, but the Body of Christ.</p> <p>You're not being cleansed of your sin, but are publicly showing your trust in His shed blood.</p> <p>Join us riverside at 4pm, and then we are going to gather at a beautiful home in the area for food, fellowship, and fun.</p> <p>Make Saturday, July 12th, YOUR day to publicly share with the world that you have received Jesus Christ as your Lord, Savior, and King.</p>	
<p>And with that, let's have a prayer.</p> <p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>	
	<p>We're going to use tonight's monologue to catch up on a bunch of loose ends.</p> <p>This, as my brother in law is prone to say, will be a cornucopia, a veritable potpourri or information.</p> <p>Most of it in response to emails, video clips received.</p>
<p>The first is a video clip that has been on YouTube for quite some time.</p> <p>It shows two LDS missionaries attempting to talk with a guy that looks like a gang banger but is actually a preacher.</p>	

<p>Now, the clip sort of makes me uneasy on a number of counts, but what I want you to see is</p> <p>First, what the missionaries say they are doing out there that night – and who they say they are.</p> <p>Finally, listen to the departing statement by one of the missionaries.</p> <p>Okay, the clip is about five minutes long.</p> <p>Apologies if you’ve seen it.</p>	
	(ROLL CLIP)
<p>Another video you must watch is also found on YouTube.</p> <p>It’s by LDS member John Dehlin in Logan.</p> <p>You can find it at:</p> <p>http://www.youtube.com/watch?V=4ZQIc55xnVs</p> <p>If that doesn’t work, just type in John Dehlin in the YouTube search.</p> <p>It’s called why people leave the LDS Church.</p> <p>John is an active latter-day Saint who speaks the truth, from what I’ve seen.</p> <p>Good job, John.</p>	

<p>LIVE! From the “Mecca of Mormonism” SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH!</p> <p>This is HEART OF THE MATTER!</p> <p>“Where Mormonism meets biblical Christianity face to face.”</p>	<p><i>Show 27 Seventeen Points Part X</i> <i>June 24th 2008</i></p> <p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
Streaming video announcement	
Website Review	(Graphic)
<p>IMPORTANT EVENTS</p> <p>First, on July 12th we are holding our northern Utah open water summer baptism.</p> <p><i>EXPLAIN what it is here</i></p> <p>(Details)</p> <p>1 2 3 4</p> <p>Go to www.hotm.tv for more information.</p> <p>Then, on the following Monday, July 14th, we invite any and all of you who have come to know Jesus apart from Mormonism to show up here at the station, between 9am and 6pm to be interviewed for a special show.</p>	

<p>We can protect your identity if you wish.</p> <p>Directions to the station are available at hotm.tv website.</p> <p>Your story can mean all the difference to entire generations.</p>	
<p>Hey, quite often we get people writing who have absolutely no belief in the Bible as the word of God.</p> <p>Long time supporter and good friend of Alatheia, RJR, suggest going to www.walkintheword.com and to pick up James McDonald's "God wrote a Book" CD series.</p> <p>Before you reject it, inspect it!</p> <p>Go to www.walkintheword.com and get the CD series, "God wrote a book."</p>	
<p>Seems the LDS Manti pageant is underway and has become host, as usual to a number of ministerial outreach efforts from evangelical groups across the nation.</p> <p>"Why do you suppose they go to all this time and trouble, LDS friends?"</p> <p>In any case, someone forwarded this clip to me of a rather stunning street display.</p> <p>What they did was they got women to portray Joseph Smith wives. Each one of the women here are about the same age as the wives he secretly took and each on is bearing a sign that tells about</p>	

<p>her life, age, etc.</p> <p>I guess it truly shocked some of the LDS who had never heard in their Sunday School lessons that he was married to anyone other than Emma.</p> <p>Let's take a look.</p> <p>You would NEVER follow such a man today – and you know it.</p> <p>Check the facts . . . and come to Jesus.</p>	<p>(Show Video clip here)</p>
<p>Hey, Project Abandon Ship is alive and well.</p> <p>If you have left Mormonism behind, take action now by sending a message to SLC – “we’re not gonna take it any more!”</p> <p>REMOVE MY NAME!</p> <p>Go to</p> <p>Utlm.org Mormonnomore.org Or bornagainmormon.com</p> <p>For instructions on how to send a message loud and clear.</p>	
<p>FYI – We requested prayer last week for a young woman who was a friend to the ministry who turned up missing in Alaska.</p> <p>She has been found. Praise God.</p>	
<p>I had a very nice dinner meeting with</p>	

an LDS man last night who I will call Jeff.

We discussed many commonalities we share, views of people, Mormonism and Christianity.

Jeff has seen the show a number of times and was confused about my saying that our ministry is not to the LDS stalwart believers but to the lost and disaffected.

He interpreted this to mean that I don't care about the stalwarts or that they are deserving of our message and ministry – or that I was inferring that they are too dumb to accept it.

This is not what I mean to infer and I am sorry if my personality supports this attitude.

This is very important to understand: Please hear me clearly.

Mormonism – as it stands today – offers nothing but rejection and alienation to those individuals who cannot accept it, believe it, or live it.

No matter what we say or think, the question remains – “What does Mormonism today do with the sinful, different, their artisticly inclined, intellectual types who will never fit the Mormon mold?

On the one hand they preach and teach and reaffirm that they are the ONLY true Church and they possess the ONLY way to live with God but they ignore the FACT – the human reality - that

there are people who want to know truth, and follow Jesus, and honor God with their lives who DO NOT embrace Mormonism.

Where does this leave these people who are Mormon by birth, taught by birth or missionary conversion, but who do not buy it?

(beat)

A few months ago, I received a very sweet request to officiate and perform a wedding in Boise this past week.

I was picked up at the Boise airport by Denise Johnston and Michael Davis and their four year old son, Aaron.

We drove to an old Taco Bell restaurant converted into a Chinese take out to talk.

Denise told me that when she was just eight years of age, she told her very strong LDS parents that there was something "wrong with the church."

By the time she was eleven, she knew she not only didn't believe in it, she was not accepted by it either.

Denise was by birth, the black-sheep of her LDS family.

She was different, intellectual, a writer, and artist.

And her resistance to Mormonism led not to more love, but more rejection.

She and her mother were in constant

battle, and her battle for emotional and spiritual survival turned destructive.

She left home as a teen, traveled the high-ways and by-ways of life.

She was a wanderer who turned to the things of this world to fill the gap where Jesus could have been – had she been taught of Him instead of religion.

Years later, a young man named Michael stepped into her life in search of a shot of Wild Turkey.

Michael is a musician, a free spirit.

They began to live together in trailers and buses and vans – traveling, experiencing life.

Denise hated religion. Hated anything that smacked of man-made control.

Michael, however, picked up a Bible, and started reading.

He shared his thoughts about God and Jesus with Denise, who was naturally resistant, but in time, came to see God more and more in her life.

Four years ago they had a beautiful young son they named Aaron.

Together, they were being drawn by God – closer and closer.

After watching a number of “Heart of the Matter” programs, Denise wrote me and asked if I would marry she and Michael.

I said I would.

As we sat at the restaurant, I asked Denise and Michael why now, after seven years to the day, they would want to get married.

Their faces beamed. Michael smiled broadly. Denise's eyes widened.

"We want to live in the light of God," Denise said.

Michael replied, "Jesus is my consciousness."

I officiated over the marriage of Denise and Michael in their back yard that day.

Aaron was their ring-bearer.

Four guests – genuine souls - sat in plastic chairs to observe and honor the moment.

The following day, Michael, Denise, and Aaron came to the Shilo Inn swimming pool and were baptized because of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and their desire to make Him Lord of their lives.

The heavens rejoiced.

I received this email when I returned to Salt Lake City the following day.

(READ DENISE'S EMAIL)

These are people who truly love each other, who truly love Jesus, and who truly love life.

<p>People like Michael and Denise and Aaron are why we do what we do.</p> <p>We want them to KNOW the most radical, loving, open, caring, giving, forgiving, being to ever live – Jesus.</p>	
<p>And with that, let's have a prayer.</p>	
<p>Okay, we are moving along through the Seventeen Points of the True Church tonight and we come to point number eight which the LDS often use to claim being "God's only true Church on earth."</p> <p>It reads:</p> <p>"The True Church must bestow the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands."</p> <p>Let's examine this for a minute.</p> <p>In Acts 8:17 the apostles laid their hands on people and they received the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>It was customary to lay hands for a variety of spiritual matters – to bless, to heal, to comfort.</p> <p>This possibly was the result of the Hebrew practice of doing the same when the COI laid their hands on the scapegoat as a means to transfer their sins to it.</p> <p>There is nothing wrong with the laying on of hands as it is a biblical practice.</p>	

But to receive the Holy Spirit, the laying on of hands occurs only three times in the Bible – and the Holy Spirit came upon many people in a number of other ways which the LDS never mention.

You see, organizations have always sought to take ownership of things, bottle it up, label it, and become its sole distributor.

Disney spends a lot of money protecting its proprietary products. That's where the money is.

Religion is no different. Whatever they can brand as their own exclusively, the more they can use it to draw seeking people who truly desire it in their lives.

Brand-naming the Holy Spirit is the greatest coup on earth.

It stands to reason, therefore, that if you believe that the only way you can receive the Holy Spirit is by getting it through the laying on of hands by an official Mormon believer, then you will become a Mormon believer in order to obtain this marvelous gift.

But the Bible gives us numerous examples where the holy Spirit fell upon people without the laying on of hands.

Look at Pentecost in Acts chapter two!

Acts 2:1 ¶ And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty

wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were *all filled* with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Jesus said, in describing the Holy Spirit:

John 3:8 *The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.*

Isn't that liberating?

And doesn't this "fit" with the way God works instead of the way men think and work?

There is nothing wrong with laying hands on people, as a show of unity, to offer personal touch, and the apostles of the Lord may have been led on occasion to place their hands on certain people to initiate the spirit – but it is not a mandatory ritual like the LDS have tried to make so many things of God.

While Peter was speaking to the Gentile house of Cornelius, it says:

Acts 10:44 *"While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as*

came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Again, the "gift of the Holy Ghost" came without the laying on of hands and it came upon Gentiles – those outside of the religious authority!

An interesting side note to this idea surrounding the Holy Spirit comes by way of comparing the LDS view of sin and the spirit relative to the Christian view.

The LDS view holds that a child becomes capable of sin when the Holy Ghost is bestowed upon her or him (by the laying on of hands) at the age of accountability but the Christian view is we are cleansed from sin when the Holy Spirit makes his home in our heart by virtue of our faith!

To the Christian, the arrival of the Holy Spirit is an indication of salvation, spiritual rebirth, of being cleansed and a new abiding life in Christ *BUT* to the LDS, it truly manifests itself as an event of self-condemnation, legalistic living, bondage, and a tenuous walk of spiritual bondage.

Think on this!

It is a perfect example of the extreme difference between being a Christian and a Mormon, for the Mormons believe that the Holy Spirit comes and goes based on a person's "worthiness" but the Christian experiences a new life

<p>of spiritual SECURITY only found in Christ!</p> <p>Romans 8:9 <i>“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”</i></p> <p>In other words, it is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is what makes a person Christ’s!</p> <p>So where Mormonism teaches that the Holy Spirit comes and goes based on the righteous state of the individual, Christianity teaches that the Holy Spirit comes to stay based on the righteousness of Christ!</p> <p>I hope the subtlety can be understood here because it means all the difference between a life of peace in Him and a life of turmoil in the self; a life of actions wrought by gratitude or a life burdened by fear of failure.</p> <p>Let’s open up the phone lines: (801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p> <p>As we wait for the operators to clear the calls, let’s turn to some emails.</p> <p>(comment on emails responses)</p>	
<p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p>	

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<p>END</p> <p>Hey, MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!</p> <p>Saturday, July 12, open water baptism in Logan with an after party.</p> <p>Monday, July 14th, taping of testimonies of people who have come to know Jesus in spite of Mormonism.</p> <p>We'll see you next week here on HOTM!</p>	

	<p>Show 29 Seventeen Points XI</p> <p><i>Trinity - Part I</i></p> <p>July 8th 2008</p>
<p>Live!</p> <p>From the Mecca of Mormonism</p> <p>SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH</p> <p>“This is Heart of the Matter where Mormonism meets biblical Christianity face to face!”</p>	<p>And I’m your host, Shawn McCraney</p>
Streaming Video Announcement	
<p>Remember, our ministry has three websites for your benefit –</p> <p>www.bornagainmormon.com</p> <p>www.HOTM.com</p> <p>www.lordsword.org</p>	
<p>Some events we REALLY want you to attend, if applicable:</p> <p>First, this Saturday, in Logan, an “open water baptism” celebration for Northern Utah!</p> <p>If you want to publicly demonstrate your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ come join us!</p> <p>And if you just want to celebrate with us afterward with food and friendship and fun, join us too!</p> <p>(MAP)</p> <p>That’s this Saturday, four pm, right off the main highway at the _____</p>	

<p>Golf course. Look for the balloons.</p> <p>Second, on Monday, July 14th from 9am to 6pm, we invite you to come to our studios and share your story of coming out of Mormonism.</p> <p>Don't be shy. I will interview you right here on the set for a special one-hour show that will follow HOTM.</p> <p>Lets look at a map, which is also available on the HOTM.com website.</p> <p>Finally, for the month of July, we will be holding a book signing at New Like Christian Bookstore in Layton, right there at 1550 North Main street from 6-8 pm.</p> <p>One way or another, I would love to either baptize you, eat with you, interview you, or sign a book for you - all this month.</p> <p>Go to www.bornagainmormon.com for more details.</p>	
<p>PROJECT ABANDON SHIP!</p> <p>Have you gotten the nerve? Taken the time?</p> <p>Send a message loud and clear, my friends:</p> <p>"Until you change, LDS church, I want nothing - no part of your organization - REMOVE MY NAME.</p> <p>Regarding Abandon Ship, Bill in Idaho wrote:</p> <p>(see email)</p>	

<p>Wally from SLC also had some comments on Project Abandon Ship, saying:</p> <p>(see email)</p> <p>Send a message loud and clear, my friends and "Arise, you have nothing to lose but your chains!"</p>	
<p>Seems the hour Heart of the Matter airs here in Utah – Tuesday nights between 8 and 9 pm mountain time is coincidentally the exact same time that the weekly mandatory Emergency Broadcast Test signal is being sent out to television stations across the state.</p> <p>Who is responsible for this test signal for television broadcasting for the state of Utah?</p> <p>KSL – Mormon owned television.</p> <p>Interesting....</p>	
<p>People say all I do is pick on Mormonism. But hey, my distain for all religious manipulation cuts in every direction:</p> <p>A good friend sent me this disturbing article from the SL Trib dated July 2nd of this year.</p> <p>Headline:</p> <p>"In case of Rapture, email my good friends."</p> <p>The article goes on to describe a LLC that has been established for people who are</p>	

<p>fearful that their assets will not be properly allocated when they are caught up in the air with Jesus, or raptured.</p> <p>This Christian company, for a annual fee, assures its customers that in the event they are taken up to be with Christ, sixty four of the unsaved family and friends who have been left behind will be notified and supplied with important legal documents relative to the administration of their estate.</p> <p>A-freaking-amazing.</p> <p>I went to their website and checked them out. It's true!</p> <p>First of all, who is going to be around in this supposedly Christian firm to send the emails out post rapture?</p> <p>What, do they hire reprobates to work for them so as to insure proper dissemination of these notices?</p> <p>And do they really think the "raptured" are going to care about their earthy assets at this juncture?</p> <p>This is not a good witness. Not good at all. It's embarrassing.</p>	
<p>Before we get in to tonight's topic - which I am really excited to explore with you - allow another few minutes of monologue.</p> <p>Tired and trite as this statement has become in our age, the ground swell for being communicatively correct has reached an all time high.</p>	

We have to be so very careful of what we say, how we say it, and even of facial inference.

Special interest groups are constantly crying foul to anyone who voices an opinion that even whispers against them receiving “everything” to which they personally feel entitled.

I received yet another email from an insulted homosexual.

Cheryl wrote:

(See email and my response)

“Word-demands” from any special interest groups is funny business.

On the one hand we have people-groups who insist on being accepted as they are despite the fact that they do not qualify and on the other hand we have people who qualify for categorization who refuse to be labeled.

It’s entomological nightmare.

Let’s look at the word Christian for a minute.

The LDS claim to be Christian.

Christians say they are not.

Who is right?

Can anyone lay claim to a title just because they “feel” like it’s applicable?

(beat)

C.S. Lewis gave a superb illustration on this very subject in the book Mere Christianity.

He used the word gentleman as an example.

You see, the word or title of gentleman was once defined by fact – a gentleman was a man who had a coat of arms and owned land.

Period.

These were the “facts” of a gentleman.

How he behaved or what people thought of him were all irrelevant to the title.

A gentleman was a man who had a coat of arms AND owned land. The definition was based on FACT.

As time marched on, a gentleman became someone not defined by facts, but by opinion. It became subjective.

Before long, a gentleman didn’t need to have a coat of arms or own land, but just had to be subjectively polite to another individual.

In other words, a gentleman was defined not by objective fact but by subjective opinion.

Which, because it merely becomes a subjective compliment based on a persons opinion, it in the end becomes a meaningless term!

One person may say that a man is a gentleman because he will not make

advances while another may say a man is a gentleman because he refuses to make advances on the first date!

A man who opens a door may be called a gentleman and a man who refuses to open a door, may, by some, be considered a gentleman too.

The point is, when words lose their factual meaning and are used based on personal opinions, the words themselves become meaningless.

Now let's look at the term "Christian."

The first time the word is used in the Bible was in Antioch.

Just as Platonists were followers of Plato and the Pythagoreans were followers of Pythagorus, Christians were followers of Jesus Christ, their master.

This means they embraced His teachings, and credited their doctrines to Him.

The disciples were called Christians because they took Christ for their teacher, crediting their every way to his doctrines, and followed the rule of life laid down by him and His appointed apostles.

A Christian believed in their heart and confessed with their mouth and knew they were saved.

A Christian was baptized as an expression of this faith.

A Christian worshipped one God.

Never did Jesus Christ teach that marriage must occur to reach a “celestial kingdom.”

Christians did not have to pay tithe, they did not have to honor a day of the week, they did not have to wear garments, or enter into temples to receive rites.

People who embrace these teachings and doctrines follow the rule of life laid down by someone other than Christ.

They are not – based on the factual definition of a Christian – Christian!

In the case of Mormonism, they are far more Smithstian than Christian.

And I am not saying this mockingly.

Things get a little murky when personal opinion slips in and starts to assign the title “Christian” to others.

Here, the title loses meaning because it is subjectively applied and all it is really saying is:

This person fits my personal idea of what a “Christian” is or is not.

Christianity is not defined by personal opinion.

Neither is it defined by “goodness or badness.”

	<p>A person is not a Christian because they are good or bad.</p> <p>They are a Christian first by virtue of their beliefs, and can then be described as a “good Christian or a bad Christian,” as a means to categorize their devotion.</p> <p>Unfortunately today, people like the LDS have used subjective opinions to determine a persons or groups Christianity instead of the facts.</p> <p>And with this, let’s have a word of prayer.</p>
PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER	PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER
<p>Tonight we are going to begin to hash out and study a very large term of debate in the Christian/LDS discussions:</p> <p>The Trinity.</p> <p>We’re going to do this in reference to two separate points listed in the LDS’s “Seventeen Points of the True Church” which say:</p> <p><i>“The True Church <u>must</u> teach that God and Jesus Christ are separate and distinct individuals” and that “the true Church <u>MUST</u> teach that God and Jesus Christ have bodies of flesh and bone.”</i></p> <p>I don’t think there could be any two statements, contextually understood, that could be more antithetical to Christianity.</p>	

<p>These pose HUGE theological and doctrinal issues which tend to split the LDS / Christian debate more than any other.</p> <p>Latter-day Saints are SO indoctrinated with their distinct idea of God being the Father and Jesus only being the Son – and that they both have physical bodies of flesh and bone – that the rather difficult Trinitarian concept are treated by them as ridiculous.</p> <p>This is going to be a multiple week teaching – maybe four or five parts.</p> <p>And so tonight is going to be Part I of “The Trinity.”</p> <p>I am going to strive to give as an exhaustive analysis of the issue as possible, giving both the LDS view and the Biblical teaching on the matter.</p>	
<p>A number of Christian thinkers have summarized God – or the Trinity – in the following manner:</p> <p><i>“Within one Being that is God, there exists three co-equal persons, namely, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”</i></p> <p><i>“Within the nature of the One God, are three eternal persons.”</i></p> <p>Latter-day Saints have been coached with the teaching that this concept of One God of three parts is the construct of creedal influence emanating from Nicea.</p> <p>As a result, Mormonism claims that “truth needed to be restored” to the earth, which</p>	

<p>would include the “true” understanding of God and his make-up.</p> <p>The late LDS prophet Gordon B. Hinckley claims that Mormonism has <i>“a perfect knowledge of the nature of God which came through the first vision of Joseph Smith.”</i></p> <p>He also said that, <i>“when Joseph left the grove that day, he knew more of the nature of God than all the learned ministers of the gospel of all the ages.”</i></p> <p>For Gordon B. Hinckley to be right, I would strongly suggest that the Bible is wrong.</p> <p>I would also suggest that the creeds established at Nicea and other places were ecclesiastical in nature and were a biblical response to heresies which were cropping up like weeds in the Church.</p> <p>An unfortunate result of all this is a misunderstanding of what the Trinity is from both the LDS side and even the Christian.</p> <p>And while we have covered this topic before, let’s see if I can do a better job of it this time.</p>	
<p>If we go back to one of the Christian definitions for the Trinity, it allows us to see some basic tenets of the doctrine. Listen:</p> <p><i>“Within one Being that is God, there exists three co-equal persons, namely, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”</i></p> <p>First, it reads:</p>	

"Within one Being that is God."

From the Bible, Christians know and trust the idea that there is One God – ONE.

MONOTHEISM

Do you believe and accept
MONOTHEISM?

It is the doctrine that there is one God, only One God, has only been One God, will only ever be One God, and there has never been a God before, during or after this One God.

All of Islam, Judaism, and Christianity agree with the Great Shema, which means, "hear:"

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is One Lord."

Faithful Jews recite this prayer every single morning.

Now Latter-day Saints maintain that while they agree there is "one God with whom they have to do" there are other God's out there – including God's Father.

This is called *Henotheism*.

Two questions:

Do you want to die a Monotheist or do you want to die a Henotheist?

and

Are true Christians Monotheistic or can a true biblical Christian be Henotheistic?

<p>Now, Latter-day Saints have attempted to say that the Great Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4) allows for Henotheism.</p> <p>But the Hebrew word for one is echad refers to somebody with “no family, and when tied to the name Yahweh, it means He does not belong to a family of Gods either.” (you can read about this in <u>The New Mormon Challenge</u> article by Paul Owens, page 274.)</p> <p>And what does the Bible say about there being just one God?</p> <p>Is this point obscurely pointed out in the Word or does God make it plainly clear that He is truly, the first, the last, the beginning of all things, and the end?</p> <p>Listen:</p>	
<p><i>Deuteronomy 4:35 Unto thee it was shewed, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him.</i></p> <p><i>Isaiah 43:10 “. . . before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.”</i></p> <p><i>Isaiah 44:6 Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.</i></p> <p>Jesus reaffirms the truth of the Great Shema that the Lord our God is One.</p> <p>Paul repeats this truth, as did Jude, James</p>	

and John the Beloved.

Upon this first foundation we MUST stand:

There is, there always has been, and there only will be, ONE God.

One.

Maybe we could approach this pillar of Truth in some other directions to give it some depth.

There is either NO God.
Or there are many God's.
Or there is One God.

Which position does the most ancient and reliable book – the Bible support?

And what position lends to the greatest allegiance to deity?

No God certainly flies in the face of the Bible, nature, and space.

And many Gods is a philosophical nightmare for how can a person love, worship, and trust MANY God's?

They can't.

And all the teaching does is muddy the clear waters of a straight shot relationship with the Almighty.

In closing tonight, and as the operators open up the phone lines

(801) 973-TV20
(801) 973-8820

Ask yourself a question relative to the LDS

<p>position about God:</p> <p>First, what would be the draw to Henotheism?</p> <p>Why would a Latter-day Saint embrace the notion that God has a father, who has a father, who has a father?</p> <p>Simply put – PRIDE.</p> <p>First of all, doctrines that make God more understandable are much more appealing to our flesh. I mean, if I can understand the nature of God, I am someone rather “ahem, advanced in my theology, aren’t I.”</p> <p>Pride.</p> <p>Additionally, Henotheism in the context of Mormonism’s other teachings on eternal progression, allows men and women to believe that they too are headed toward Godhood.</p> <p>Again, Pride.</p> <p>It’s tantilizing. But completely and totally oppositional to who the Bible says the true and living God is –</p> <p>The first, the last, uncreated, without family, the alpha, the omega, the original source of ALL things.</p> <p>Let’s go to the phones.</p>	
<p>Emails</p>	

<p>Three minutes left:</p> <p>Hey this is my last opportunity to invite you to come to two important events around this coming weekend.</p> <p>Our open water baptism on the road to Logan from Wellsville in a river - 4pm - Saturday - look for the balloons.</p> <p>Then join us for a celebration afterward.</p> <p>Then on Monday, July 14th, Join us right here at the studio between 9 am and 6pm to be interviewed for our show special.</p> <p>God bless you as you day in and day out take it all to the LORD.</p> <p>See you next week here on HOTM!</p>	

<p>LIVE!</p> <p>From the “Mecca of Mormonism”</p> <p>SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH!</p> <p>This . . . is . . . Heart of the Matter, where Mormonism meets biblical Christianity face to face</p>	<p>Show 30 Seventeen Points XII</p> <p>The Trinity – Part II</p> <p>07/15/2008</p> <p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
STREAMING VIDEO ANNOUNCE	
WEBSITE REVIEW	(Graphics)
<p>“I Was A Born-Again Mormon,” available at . . .</p>	<p>Lifeway Books in SLC</p> <p>New Life in Layton</p> <p>Oasis Books in Logan</p> <p>Gift of Grace in Springville</p> <p>Dolly’s Books on Main in Park City</p> <p>UTLM.org</p> <p>Christian Gift and Bible in</p> <p>Sam Weller’s in downtown SLC</p> <p>Deseret Book (JUST KIDDING!)</p> <p>And of course, at our website at www.bornagainmormon.com</p> <p>And look, we’ll mail it to you free of charge if you can’t afford it.</p>
<p>What a weekend!</p> <p>On Saturday we held an open baptism for Northern Utah.</p> <p>Twelve people beautiful people professed their undying faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ in front of an audience of sixty</p>	

and were baptized in a gorgeous cold river there in Cache Valley.

They were:

Brandon
Kara
Chris
Dan
Rose
Ireland
Angela
Audrey
Megan
Hank
Kevin, and
Margaret

I Praise God to have been apart of this important event in their lives!

We then retired to “Lucy of Logan’s” beautiful home and socialized together with fantastic food, fun, songs, and prayer.

I look forward to this event again next year.

Then *yesterday*, we interviewed nearly 30 people about their leaving Mormonism and why.

People came from out of state by bus and plane and local people traveled by car and on foot to share their story.

It was heartwarming and fair information. We’ll let you know when this special program will air.

THANK YOU ALL for you participation.

In Joel 3:14 it says

"Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision."

We want to invite everyone from across the State to attend and/or participate in our "Day of Decision – Burning Heart Festival this coming September 20 from 3 to 9 pm.

If you are a confirmed Christian, ask your pastor about getting your church involved by everyone personally inviting one inactive or lost Latter-day Saint from your area to join us.

They're out there – we know it.

We receive ***a lot*** of email from people saying "they love the show," "they support what we're doing," and/or they want to help in some way."

Well this is your chance – and we need it.

Go to:

www.HOTM.TV and sign up to serve at our state-wide revival held especially for the lost LDS of the state.

Now, if you are NOT a born-again Christian, we extend a special

	<p>invitation to you to stop by and enjoy yourselves – especially if you’re LDS.</p> <p>We’ve got a number of excellent food booths offering grub at a deeply-discounted rate.</p> <p>We’ll have bounce-houses for the kids.</p> <p>Great – not good – but great music.</p> <p>And I will give the final address of the night regarding “a reason of the hope we posses in Him.”</p> <p>Heck, we’re even going to have a wading pool there for people who want to receive baptism!</p> <p>Plan to join us.</p> <p>Get your pastors to get a booth.</p> <p>Invite your friend, family and neighbors to</p> <p>(GRAPHIC)</p> <p>Burning Heart 08</p> <p>The Day of Decision</p> <p>At Sugarhouse Park</p> <p>September 20th</p>
<p>Last week we had a caller ask about an apparent contradiction in the Word.</p> <p>I said I knew there was a viable answer to it, but that I couldn’t remember what it was at the time.</p>	

Let me take a minute and explain now:

When Paul was traveling along the road to Damascus, Acts chapter 9:4 says:

Acts 9:4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

(Then verse seven continues)

Acts 9:7 And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.

The author of this account was Luke.

The same author (Luke), reciting Paul's experience, wrote later in Acts 22:7-9

Act 22:7 And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

8 And I answered, Who art thou, Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest.

9 And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me.

So the apparent contradiction – written by the hand of the same writer – would be that in one place he wrote that the men “heard a voice but saw no man,” and the other recitation said that they “saw indeed the light, but they heard not the voice of Him that spake.”

The first thing to remember is that Luke is a tremendous intellect with a gift for writing history and he penned both accounts.

It is doubtful that he would mistakenly –

and certainly not purposefully - contradict himself in his expose.

Additionally, the first passages says that those with Paul *"heard a voice but saw no man."*

This does not mean they understood what the voice said nor does it mean they didn't see "anything. All it says is they heard a voice, but saw no actual man.

We are all familiar with the experience of hearing a voice or voices but not understanding what they are saying.

I think this is the case here.

Paul saw a man and heard His voice more than those with him who only saw light (and not a man) and heard a voice (but did not understand what it said).

This is acceptable in light of scripture as there are instances where some hear thunder, and see lighting while others hear a "still small voice" amidst the tumult.

To have ears to hear and eyes to see over the din surrounding us is the challenge.

Where Paul certainly saw a man AND understood His message fully, those with him did neither in total - BUT did see something and did hear something.

Perhaps the most troubling part of this question - which was posed to our caller last week by a Latter-day Saint - is that it's purpose is to cast doubt on the reliability of the Bible.

We are dealing with some Orwellian

<p>double-speak here folks, because on the one hand, the LDS today – in defending and promoting their faith to the masses – claim to “just, just love the Bible! LOVE IT, LOVE IT, LOVE IT”</p> <p>But within the same ranks – especially behind the scenes – they disregard it and seek to lower its authority as God’s infallible Word.</p> <p>Never let anyone demean God’s Word for heaven and earth will surely pass away, but His Word will endure forever.</p>	
<p>And with that, let’s have a word of prayer.</p> <p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>	<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>
<p>After the show last week – Part one on the Trinity – a faithful viewer said to me, “You’re a brave man.”</p> <p>“Why’s that,” I asked.</p> <p>“You are trying to explain an incomprehensible concept – GOD – the Trinity!”</p> <p>I sort-of just smiled, then someone added:</p> <p>“To an audience that has been taught to mock it!”</p> <p>(beat)</p> <p>Our subject presents some challenges, as evidenced by our caller Dorrell from last week.</p> <p>Whenever I said, “God,” Dorrell would automatically think “Father”.</p>	

These disconnects make discussing the Trinity very difficult with Latter-day Saints.

Having been one, I understand. But I also understand that the fog does clear, and eyes that really want to see, will.

So we press on.

Last week we established the Biblical doctrine that there has always and will always be just ONE God.

We cited verses like

Isaiah 43:10-11

“Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.

The LDS suggest otherwise, both henotheistically by saying God (the Father) had a father, AND in their belief that they too, could someday become God’s if obedient to all the Laws and Ordinances of the LDS gospel!

Nevertheless, Joseph Smith teachings do NOT trump the Bible and it’s safe, right, and supported by the Bible that there has always been One God, there will always be One God, and there will never be any other God.

Tonight, we will endeavor to show that the Bible treats the Father, the Son, and the

Holy Spirit with all the same attributes of God.

Let me point out some things that are mentioned on a website called ConcernedChristians.org

"There is ONLY one BEING – GOD.

Within that BEING are three PERSONS.

In the Forgotten Trinity, James White writes:

"When we speak of the Trinity we are talking about one WHAT (God) and three WHO'S (Father, Son and Spirit).

Bible scholar Norman Geisler said:

"God is unity of essence with plurality of persons. Each person is different, yet they share a common nature."

Furthermore, each of the persons within the ONE being that is God is fully divine.

White wrote:

"Each fully shares the one being that is God. The Father is not 1/3rd of God, the Son 1/3rd of God, the Spirit 1/3rd God. Each is fully God, coequal with the others, and have been eternally."

Now, the three persons of God do *function* differently. But this does not make them inferior to the other.

Here is where the LDS think they get the

upper hand.

Not understanding the three in one nature of God, and somehow coming to believe that Christians believe in Modalism, the LDS will often ask questions like:

“Well, if the Trinity is correct, who did Jesus pray to?”

Ahhh . . . the Father?

As human beings, created in the image of God, we too are three beings in one.

We are body, we are soul, we are spirit.

1st Thessalonians 5:23 ¶ *And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Now the Son was subject to the Father as He took on flesh and became Man on our behalf JUST AS OUR BODIES should be subject to our spirits!

The LDS would have the world believe that being made in God’s image means that we look like God and that the eternal almighty God of the universe, creator of all things, overseer of all things, pulls link out of His belly button and trims His nose hair – when heavenly mother starts complaining.

Come on.

You cannot reconcile scripture to support this pagan notion.

Pagan doctrines have always taken their Gods and put them in human form!

Look at the Roman and Greek God's.

Zeus, Prometheus, all of them – men and women.

But NOT the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

As any Faithful Jew. Ask a Rabbi who knows Hebrew and studies the Talmud:

“Is God a man? Does He have a body of flesh and bones?”

Then sit back and watch the sky light up with scriptural fireworks.

But let's get back to this idea of three in one (and by the way, it is NEVER one in three – that would be the modalism we spoke of last week where some have tried to say that the Father became the Son and the Son the Holy Spirit and One God moved around into three people. Not so.)

Three in one.

Now the LDS missionaries and the apostles and men they call modern-day prophets have said that it was corrupt Christian creeds that formulated this idea of the Trinity.

Christians know creeds were all based on sound exegetical readings – and if they weren't, true Christians never accepted them as reliable.

Grab a pencil and jot these down.

Did you know . . .

That the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are all described in the Word as being the Truth?

The Father in John 7:28
The Son in Revelation 3:7
And the HS in 1st John 5:6

That *all three* are called . . .

Lord? (Rom10:12/Lk2:11/2Cor3:17)
Everlasting? (Rom
16:26/Rev22:13/Heb9:14)
Almighty?(Gen17:1/Rev1:8/Rom15:19)
Powerful? (Jer32:17/Heb1:3/Lu1:35)

Did you know that Eternality is ascribed to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

ETERNALITY - THEY WERE NOT CREATED LIKE YOU AND ME - EVER!

Psalms 90:2
Micah 5:2
Hebrews 9:14

That HOLINESS is a given title to all three Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Holiness.

There is a reason why Isaiah, when speaking of God wrote (in Isaiah 6:3)

“Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.”

Holy Father!
Holy Son!
Holy Spirit!

Holy, Holy, Holy describes three in One –
because Isaiah was a committed
Monotheist!

Did you know that all three persons are
assigned the attribute of omnipresence in
the Bible?

(Omnipresence means everywhere present)

The Father in Matthew 19:26
The Son in Matthew 28:18
And the Holy Spirit in Psalms 139:7!

**Omnipresence is an attribute only held
by GOD. And there is ONLY ONE GOD.**

Did you know that Omniscience (or
knowing all) is assigned to all three
persons in the Bible?

The Father in Romans 11:33
The Son in Matthew 9:4
The Holy Spirit in 1st Cor 2:10

**Omniscience is an attribute only held by
God. And there is ONLY one God.**

Finally, did you know that the last “O” –
Omnipotence (meaning all powerful) are
given to all three persons as well?

The Father Jer 32:27
The Son Matt 28:18
The Spirit Rom 15:19

Prior to His ascension, Jesus said to His

disciples in Matt 28:19

*"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them **in the name** of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."*

The name of God – not names, but the name.

If three separate god's it would be name – and the apostles did everything possible to avoid even appearing polytheistic.

One God of three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

As a side but applicable note, consider these interesting points which also lend tremendous support to the apostles notion of One God of three parts:

Among the Jews, the doctrinal controversy was always about who the true Messiah was and among the Gentiles the doctrinal controversy was always about the true nature of God.

The apostles of the Lord – who had the authority to decide this - thought it was therefore proper among the Jews to baptize in the name of Jesus alone so that He might be vindicated as the true Messiah and they might accept Him as such.

They already acknowledged God the Father and His Spirit!

They were therefore identified through baptism with the true messiah – Christ!

But among the Gentiles, they baptized in

<p><u>the name</u> of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, so the gentile might be thereby instructed in the doctrine of who the true God is!</p> <p>When the Jews baptized proselytes they did so in the name of the Father, that is, into the profession of God, whom they called by the name of Father.</p> <p>The Father hath revealed himself in the old covenant; the Son in the new through human flesh by his miracles, doctrine, resurrection and ascension, and the Holy Spirit in his gifts and miracles.</p> <p>So the doctrine of the ever blessed Trinity grew by degrees to full maturity. At Pentecost, the entirety of God was made manifest – and available – to all!</p> <p>Pretty cool, huh?</p>	
<p>The Word also tells us that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit all have special functions – which naturally leads our little minds to split them up into separate beings.</p> <p>The Father planned salvation, the Son accomplished it on the cross and resurrection, and the Holy Spirit applies it to the lives of people who believe in their heart in Jesus.</p> <p>There are also circumstances which make the oneness of God difficult – like why Jesus submits to the will of the Father and the Holy Spirit is here to glorify and testify of the Son.</p> <p>But, in my limited scope, I see this as no different than my body subjecting itself to my spirit, and my soul pushing my body to</p>	"

<p>go beyond my comfort zone.</p> <p>Finally, for tonight, each of the three persons of our One God are called God!</p> <p>The Father (Isaiah 9:6) The Son (Isaiah 43:11 and Hebrews 1:8) The Spirit (Acts 5:3-4)</p> <p>Remember what Thomas said and did when he saw the wounds in the flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ?</p> <p>John 20:28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.</p> <p>And Jesus – a resurrected being, did not correct Him.</p> <p>But don't believe me – really.</p> <p>Listen to what I have to say, but go to God and say: Lord, reveal yourself to me.</p> <p>I want to know you.</p> <p>Open my eyes. Open my ears. Open my heart. I want to know you first with my spirit, then with my soul, and someday in my body.</p> <p>Let's open up the phones:</p> <p>(801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p>	
<p>Please support us in Burning Heart 2008 "The Day of Decision."</p> <p>Go to HOTM.TV for more information. We'll see you all next week, here on Heart of the Matter!</p>	

<p>LIVE! From the “Mecca of Mormonism” - SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH! - This . . . is . . . Heart of the Matter, where Mormonism meets biblical Christianity face to face</p>	<p>Show 31 Seventeen Points XIII The Trinity – Part III</p> <p>07/22/2008</p> <p>. . . and I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>LIVE STREAMING VIDEO</p>	
<p>Hey, this coming Monday night, July 28th from 6 to 8 pm, join us in Layton for a book signing at New Life Christian Books.</p> <p>Address is:</p> <p>1550 North Main Street in Layton</p> <p>Now why don’t you come out and take a look at the store. It isn’t easy running a Christian Bookstore in Utah, and these people need your support.</p> <p>Even if you have nothing to buy, come on out and pray over the store! Huh??? Eh????</p> <p>So I hope to see you there.</p> <p><i>(And by the way, Dolly Books there on Main Street is now carrying “I was a Born-Again Mormon.” If you live up there, go on in and grab a copy).</i></p>	
<p>My good friend Robert point something out to me relative to the supposed conflict in Acts 9:7 and Acts 22:9 – he went to the Greek.</p>	

<p>Acts 9:7 reads</p> <p>“And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, <u>hearing a voice</u>, but seeing no man.</p> <p>Acts 22:9 reads:</p> <p>“And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but <u>they heard not the voice</u> of him that spake to me.</p> <p>Hearing “a” voice is a general word, and “heard not THE voice is a specific term.”</p> <p>Just more proof for the infallible word!</p>	
<p>SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th, from 3-9pm at Sugarhouse Park!</p> <p>Food Bounce houses Music Churches, ministries, and messages?</p> <p>Burning Heart ‘08 The Day of Decision</p> <p>Please join us and invite an inactive, lost, name on the records only family, friends, or neighbors.</p>	
<p>Received an email from a well meaning Christian who wanted to know why I don’t spend more time talking about Joseph Smith, the Book of Mormon, Church History, etc.</p> <p>Couple of things:</p> <p>First, we have.</p>	

<p>Go to www.hotm.tv and you can see all the past shows in our video archives.</p> <p>Second, we will continue to.</p> <p>Beginning in January of 2009, we are going to pick up at Carthage Jail right after Joseph Smith was shot, and spend the year combing through LDS history from that point up to the present.</p> <p>Finally, we are working very hard at getting all the shows duplicated and available for your viewing pleasure.</p> <p>Stay tuned for more on this later.</p>	
<p>PROJECT ABANDON SHIP!</p> <p>How are you doing, folks?</p> <p>Have you sent your letter in? Made your request to no longer be known as a "member of Mormonism?"</p> <p>We are getting more and more letter from people all around who have taken the steps to have their names removed from LDS church records.</p> <p>And the general consensus we hear from folks once it is done?</p> <p>Peace. Tranquility. A renewed dedication to know God. And even some elation and pride for finally taken a step forward.</p> <p>Want more information? Go to:</p> <p>www.utlm.org</p>	

www.bornagainmormon.com	
<p>A Christian television host in Atlanta recently sent me this news release she received.</p> <p>It's about a new book that is out to "defend Mormonism"</p> <p>(READ)</p> <p>Let me tell you - and we've said this before on HOTM - Mormonism is stepping into the fray "guns a-blazing" and are going to any and every measure to present Mormon doctrine, history, and present-day beliefs as biblically sound.</p> <p>Using the media. Sound bites. You tube. Newspaper articles. Supposedly kind and gentle dialogues, public appearances, and so-authored books to show that "we really can be friends."</p> <p>Yet at the same time, the LDS church continues to support the non-biblical doctrines espoused by founder Joseph Smith even to the point of going beyond the pale of gratitude in reverencing His name and edited legacy!</p> <p>The result?</p> <p>So much spin and declarification that it is becoming impossible to know what it true and what is not for unsuspecting members and non-members alike.</p> <p>Go to UTLM.ORG</p> <p>Why? They use LDS materials to</p>	

<p>contextually prove LDS doctrine, history, and present day beliefs.</p>	
<p>Hand in hand with the recent “defense of the faith” position many LDS are taking at the lay-level, I received two emails this week that used the same exact line on me:</p> <p>“You have been deceived.”</p> <p>Now, let me assure you, I am a Bible-believing Christian.</p> <p>I love the Lord, I’ve repented of my sins, and I seek to follow Him by obeying He and His Word.</p> <p>I have faith, love, hope, and assurance in what He did in His life, on the cross, and in overcoming death.</p> <p>I seek the Holy Spirit in my life.</p> <p>Yet, the claim is I have been “deceived.”</p> <p>I have been deceived because I wholly accept Jesus as sovereign Lord of my life, and now reject</p> <p>A treasure-seeking boy’s story about golden plates buried in a hill near his home?</p> <p>His multiple-ly revised story of seeing God?</p> <p>His claims at translating funeral papyri into a book he claims came from Abraham?</p> <p>His Masonically based temple rites?</p> <p>His beliefs and practices in polygamy?</p> <p>I’ve been deceived?</p>	

Who, in light of the evidence, has really been deceived here?	
And with this, let's go to the source – even God – in prayer.	
<p>As you may recall, we have been reviewing the Trinity for the past few weeks here on the show.</p> <p>Two weeks ago, we established the Biblical FACT – FACT – that there is only one God.</p> <p>Last week, we illustrated through the Bible that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit each p God share the same descriptive names, including</p> <p>The truth Almighty Lord Eternal Powerful Holy</p> <p>We also pointed out that the Bible assigns them the attributes equally, including:</p> <p>Omniscience Omnipresence Omnipotence Holiness And even the name and title of God!</p> <p>In response to the Christian position of One God of three persons, the LDS have some standard and not-so-standard responses.</p> <p>Tonight, we'll name and respond to some of them AND also show you how the LDS view of God “morphed” and rearranged</p>	

itself over the life and time of Joseph Smith.

One of the first responses – juvenile responses – you will receive from the LDS defender is that the word Trinity is not in the Bible!

We'll let's first use their logic and apply it to their claims, okay?

New and Everlasting covenant isn't in the Bible.

Pre-mortal existence isn't in the Bible.

Families can be together forever isn't in the Bible.

Want me to go on?

Look, we all understand codifying words, don't we? We understand and use words to help all minds large and small understand concepts that are perhaps too broad or difficult to use in day to day life.

Get over this one.

The idea, the concept of trinity is all over the Bible – all over it. But I have to be honest. You probably won't see it until you possess spiritually regenerated eyes.

Ask ANYONE who has come out of Mormonism to biblical Christianity and all of them will express how the make-up of God became CLEAR to them once they allowed the Lord to change their hearts.

Another argument the LDS will use to attack the biblical truth of One God of three

persons is by using statements and situations in the Bible to supposedly prove that the Trinitarian notion is false.

There are a few popular ones.

One is when Jesus Himself said in John

"The Father is greater than I."

"See," they will say, "differeent peoples! Jesus wasn't God. He was just His Son."

Again, this is the problem with taking specific verses and using them as proof-texts for the entire Bible.

Interestingly, Jesus also says in the same chapter of John that He was "I Am," which caused the Jews to take up stones for what? Making Himself God!

He also said He was "equal with God" (in John 10:33), was worshipped from a baby in a manger to a resurrected being, told Philip that if you have seen Him, you have seen the Father.

But aside from all these instances, we still have the greatest foundation of all upon which we stand:

There is either one God, there is no God, or there are many Gods.

The Bible fully supports One. Therefore, with Jesus being worshipped, called God, and making Himself equal to God, the Trinity is the ONLY ACCEPTABLE, CONTEXTUAL theology!

Another response, which is similar to the last, is the LDS citing that Jesus prayed to

the Father, that the Father spoke to Him out of Heaven, or that the Bible proves His subordination to Him.

While these references are all correct, they are not correctly understood.

When we forget any one of the following biblical facts regarding God, we run into this type of errant reasoning the LDS missionaries and defenders resort.

There is One God.
There are Three Persons.
They are equal but with different roles.

Remove or altar ANY of these biblical facts from your mind, and you will begin to say insipid things like, “was Jesus praying to Himself?”

Again,

There is ONE God.
There are THREE Persons.
They are EQUAL, but with different roles.

Now, these three “rules of thumb” may lead us to another classic LDS response:

“I don’t understand this God? How can I worship something I don’t fully understand?”

My response is “how can you worship something your little mind can comprehend?”

In reality, this point perfectly illustrates the difference between the true Christian heart and the True LDS.

A biblical Christian’s heart would say,

"God is so great, so awesome, so powerful, me, a sinner, a man of flesh, will never comprehend Him, His Power, or His Love."

But the true LDS heart replies:

"I am so advanced in my righteousness and life choices, so steeped in my possession of the Spirit, that I am able to almost easily grasp the nature of God because when it is all said and done, He's just like me!"

Get it?

Two more common LDS responses to the Trinity.

They say -

"The trinity doesn't make sense?"

CS Lewis said in Mere Christianity page 165:

"If Christianity was something we were making up, of course we would make it easier. But it is not. We cannot compete, in simplicity, with people who are inventing religions. How could we? We are dealing with fact. Of course anyone can be simple if he has no facts to bother about."

Let me repeat that last line:

... anyone can be simple if he has no facts to bother about."

Because the ego-centric notion that God

<p>was once a man, who has a father, who has a father, who has a father, who sired Jesus as any man would sire a son is easier to accept and understand, it does NOT mean it is right!</p> <p>Finally, and in another somewhat sophomoric level of thinking, some LDS defenders will use the rudimentary elements of arithmetic to prove their multiplicity of Gods.</p> <p>Doesn't one God the Father, plus One God the Son, plus One God the Holy Spirit equal THREE God's? (huuhh huhhh huhhh huuhh).</p> <p>God is a triune being, not a triplex.</p> <p>He is a single house more akin to a foundation, walls and a roof rather than three houses connected to each other.</p> <p>One essence. One Being.</p> <p>Norman Geisler said:</p> <p>"There is no more mathematical problem in conceiving the Trinity than there is in understanding 1 cubed (or 1X1X1 - which equals One).</p>	
<p>In the end of it all, let me assure you that as a Christian, you have far more to stand on relative to the Trinity than anything the LDS would say to criticize it.</p> <p>Let me tell you why.</p> <p>First, as we have shown, the Bible supports the codification completely.</p>	

<p>But secondly, Mormonism itself – historically and through the Book of Mormon even today – support the Christian constructs of Trinity.</p> <p>Let me explain before we go to the phones:</p>	
<p>I have long maintained that the Book of Mormon is nothing more than a fictional book which borrowed heavily from themes found in the Bible, from Joseph’s own community and country, and from his own family situation.</p> <p>This is what makes it so benign (in nearly every way) relative to the Bible.</p> <p>Joseph wrote the book early in His life – when I believe he was still attached to a desire to lead people to God and Christ through good religion - before the women, the power, the money, the fame, and the wildly imaginative mind took over.</p> <p>As these Joseph-centered traits took over, His idea and notions of God changed.</p> <p>But he had a problem – the teachings in the Book of Mormon.</p> <p>In 1837, eight years after the first publication, he went back to the book that he supposedly translated by “the gift and power of God” and changed passages that presented God the Father and the Son as one God to a description of them being separate beings.</p> <p>This means – now listen to this – this means that Joseph accepted the idea that the book could be changed.</p>	

So much for a pure translation.

But Joseph was growing in popularity and I think he grew tired of trying to correct his mistakes – people seemed to accept Him and his writings no matter what they said or how they contradicted each other.

So he only “rewrote” doctrine in 1st Nephi. (11:16, 18, 21, 32; 13:40).

Trouble is, the Book of Mormon retained some other doctrinal teachings relative to One God he never took the time to fix.

CITE PASSAGES HERE:

In the end, we see that Joseph’s “later” doctrines and teachings about GOD not only conflict with the Bible, they conflict with what He accepted as truth when he

<p>compiled the BOM!</p> <p>My friends, I am not picking on Joseph Smith. Many, many a man has gone from good intentions to the fringes of thought.</p> <p>David Koresh began as a believer. Armstrong was once a solid believer. Jim Jones started as a teacher of Truth.</p> <p>We see this time and time again.</p> <p>But Joseph was shot early in life. And with his body went his growing postulations.</p> <p>Brigham added a bit to the craziness.</p> <p>A few others set it all in concrete.</p> <p>And now millions embrace it as truth.</p> <p>There is One God. He is of three Persons. They are equal but with different roles.</p> <p>We call this the Trinity.</p> <p>Let's go to the phones:</p> <p>(801) 973-8820 (801) 973-TV20</p>	
<p>CONCLUSION</p> <p>Hey remember the book signing! This Monday evening at New Life Christian Books on 1550 Main in Layton 6-8pm.</p> <p>God bless you. We'll see you next week . . . HERE . . . on Heart of the Matter.</p>	

<p>LIVE! From the “Mecca of Mormonism” -Salt Lake City, Utah- This is HEART OF THE MATTER . . . <i>“Where Mormonism meets biblical Christianity face to face.”</i></p>	<p>Show 32 Seventeen Points – IX July 29th 2008</p> <p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>Do you have friends or relatives who aren’t able to receive the show?</p> <p>Have them go to HOTM.TV and they can watch it live from anywhere in the world through live streaming video!</p> <p>Also, beginning August 12th of this year, Heart of the Matter will be airing on AM 820 “The TRUTH” – a hot new 50,000 watt Christian radio station dedicated to sharing God’s Word with the wonderful people of Utah.</p> <p>Spread the Word</p> <p>Beginning August 12th from 8pm to 9pm, Heart of the Matter will be airing on AM 820 The Truth!</p> <p>Really excited about that.</p>	
<p>Last night we had a wonderful turn out at Life Way Christian Book store in Layton for a book signing.</p> <p>Support this Christian bookstore – and those in your neighborhood with your patronage.</p> <p>“I was a Born-Again Mormon” is available through</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifeway Christian Books in Layton • New Life Christian Books in Murray • Oasis Books in Logan • Gift of Grace in Springville • Christian Gift and Bible in Sandy • Sam Weller’s downtown • Dolly’s books in Park City • And through UTLM located across from first base near

	<p>Franklin Field or at UTLM.org</p> <p>You can always come to our website to get a book without a charge IF you are in financial straights and can't afford it.</p>
<p>Hey, have you marked it on your calendar?</p> <p>Saturday, September 20th from 3-9pm</p> <p>Burning Heart 08 <i>The Day of Decision."</i></p> <p>What is it?</p> <p>Invite your inactive, disaffected, in-name-only Latter-day Saint friends and neighbors out to an afternoon of . . .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great music • Food • Bounce-houses for the kids • Local radio and TV station booths • And meet and fellowship with participating Churches and their pastors (as of this point these local churches will be represented there: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. <p>At the end the night, I'll deliver a short message and the pastors will be there to baptize those who wish to publicly</p>	

<p>identify themselves as Christians.</p> <p>Burning Heart 'O8 – The Day of Decision.</p> <p>Approach your pastor and invite them to join with us for this state-wide revival.</p>	
<p>On Thursday, August 7th from 3:30 to 4:30 pm, Dr. James Wakefield of the Salt Lake Theological Seminary is going to present a response to LDS apostle Jeffery Holland's October 2007 LDS conference speech on the oneness of the Godhead.</p> <p>If you're interested in the Trinity then this is a must see presentation.</p> <p>Go to</p>	
<p>A now for a re-traction:</p> <p>I've said on a number of occasions that author Lee Strobel was a detective. I was wrong. He is a law school grad journalist.</p> <p>Apologies.</p>	
<p>There was a story in the Salt Lake Trib on the 15th of this month about an inactive LDS man named Chad Hardy who created and sold calendars of returned missionaries without shirts and called the calendars "Men on a Mission."</p> <p>It seems the LDS church leadership summarily excommunicated the creator for his "salacious" publication even though it was done with the full</p>	

<p>permission of the models involved.</p> <p>That in-and-of itself is sort of humorous, but the real comedy came by way of a letter to the editor from an LDS man regarding the excommunication of Mr. Hardy.</p> <p>It read:</p>	
<p>Had a viewer email me several emails over the past few years:</p> <p>Here mantra?</p> <p>"I don't believe a word you are saying."</p> <p>Three weeks ago I received a final email from her:</p> <p>(QUOTE)</p>	
<p>Finally, before I introduce some very important people in my families lives, I want to share another email I received from one "Daniel."</p> <p>It reads:</p> <p><i>"Just wondering, since you believe Mormonism isn't true, will you tell your new name and show the whole endowment on your show?"</i></p>	

In light of this question, I suppose it's time to repeat our ministry, methods, and mission.

What is our purpose here and in our ministry?

Is it to offend or inform?

Is it to prove myself to other Christians to prove our intent to seekers?

Our mission is to first reach the lost and disaffected Latter-day Saints with the saving message of Jesus.

A secondary message is to reach active believing LDS with information the current administration refuses to present.

Our final objective is to share the saving biblical message of Christ crucified with all people whether once LDS or not.

In order to meet our primary and secondary objectives, it would be sheer idiocy for me to do as you've asked, Daniel.

If I were trying to reach Jews would I burn a yamika on air?

If I were trying to reach Muslims, would I rip the Koran in two?

Admittedly, there is a very delicate balance between sharing truthful information and offending everyone within earshot.

So just to re-confirm our position for all to hear, let me say this:

I believe that there are Latter-day Saints who can come to a saving relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ WHILE Latter-day Saints.

To take it a step further, I even believe people – Mormons, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Scientologists – whoever – can experience spiritual rebirth even while still holding some false notions of who Jesus is!

And I don't care if you or your online "apologetic ministry" agrees with us or not.

No such thing as a born-again Mormon?

I WAS ONE.

Again, our focus is not really where you attend church, it's whether you know you are saved hook, line, and sinker by grace through faith in Jesus who is God.

This being said, there is another side to the coin.

While we love all peoples – Mormons included – we are wholeheartedly against Mormonism and Mormon Doctrines.

We believe they lead to people standing on an inferior foundation to what God offers, and to personal bondage, and away from a person regenerative relationship with Christ.

Our approach – which is clearly presented in our book I was a Born-Again Mormon – is reaching people, causing walls to fall and lives to change.

As I've traveled over the past three years I became acquainted with a very nice and personable pilot who is an active, faithful Latter-day Saint.

Last week as I existed a plan, he saw me and asked if we could talk.

I had given him my book months before and we have had several conversations about our ministry and the LDS Church.

He explained to me that he had a friend who had been LDS all her life, but that she was since he could remember, "hollow inside."

He said that as he was speaking once again and could see that after all these years she was still unassimilated into the LDS ways, he told her about our website and gave her his copy of our book.

I was astounded . . . and appreciative.

I told him that his actions were very mature.

He explained that he is well aware that "Mormonism is not necessarily for everyone" and I applauded the love and care he has for his friend and the peace she needs in her life.

<p>Selfish idealism from any side of the fence is from the mind and hearts of men.</p> <p>When Jesus is given a real chance, He shows up where people are, and saves them, heals them, and brings peace to the hearts of all who let Him in.</p> <p>Before we go to prayer and tonight's message, I want to introduce you to some very good friends up from California.</p> <p>The Sonne Family – or at least part of them.</p> <p>We have been friends with the Sonne's for coming up on fifteen years.</p> <p>Chris Kathryn Elizabeth Ben Luke and Claire</p> <p>Chris and I were called to an LDS high council on the same day and served together.</p> <p>He is one of my best friends.</p> <p>Kathryn . . .</p> <p>And with that, let's have a prayer.</p>	
PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER	
Okay, continuing on with "the seventeen points of the True Church,"	

let me cover a few easy ones:

#9, the LDS claim that the True Church must practice divine healing.

We would agree. But in the context of the Word, divine healing is a gift of the spirit and not all peoples and it is not a tool of a priesthood.

People are given the spiritual gift of healing – women too. But we do not have God at our service to do our will.

I would submit that ALL healings - whether someone is Christian, LDS, or otherwise are divine and the will of God, no matter how they occur. I would also suggest that all death and disease must have His permission to exist or take hold.

There is no link between the LDS priesthood authority and healings as they would try to suggest.

God loves all His creations – and heals whom he will as a result.

The LDS claims to priesthood healing people makes me think of a Beverly Hillbillies episode where Granny swears she has discovered the cure for the common cold through a critter elixer.

When Jed told his doctor about it the doctor assured him that the only way to get over a cold was plenty of bedrest and plenty of fluids, but back at home Granny insisted she had the cure.

A convention was held to announce

Granny's cure for the common cold and
Granny got up to speak about her tonic.

Testimonies were told of how it really
worked.

Finally, someone asked Granny why
she thought the tonic worked, to which
she craggily replied,

"I'm not sure. All I know is when
someone takes two tablespoons of the
stuff, drinks plenty of water and gets
lot's of bedrest, they're feeling better
within a day or two!"

So there it is.

The Twelfth Point the LDS church uses
to claim that it is the only true church
says:

"The Officers of the Church must be
called by God."

The site Bible passages so out of context
that it is just amazing they are allowed
to have ever gotten away with it –
especially the Old Testament passages
in Exodus 28:1 and 40:13-16.

You look them up relative to the New
Testament church and see for yourself.

But they also quote Hebrews 5:4 to
justify their position on this which
reads:

Heb 5:4 *And no man taketh this
honour unto himself, but he that is
called of God, as was Aaron.*

Three points relative to this passage:

First, this has no reference to the call to the work of the Christian ministry, and should not be applied to it.

It should not be urged as a proof-text to show that a minister of the gospel should have a "call" directly from God, or that he should be called according to a certain order of succession.

The object of Paul is not to state this, but to show that the Jewish high priest was called of God to his office in a certain way, showing that he held the appointment from God, and that therefore it was necessary that the great High Priest of the Christian profession JESUS should be called in a similar manner.

Second, this passage has absolutely no relevance to the LDS idea of priesthood authority.

Were the Aaronic Priests of the Old Testament called the same was as Aaron was?

Not at all (just read Leviticus 8 and Exodus chapter 29) and you will see.

Finally, this "point" of the seventeen is usually understood and explained by the LDS as a person must be called by a laying on of hands by one with the proper priesthood authority.

Since Pentecost, people of all walks, shapes, genders, methods and meanings have been called and used by

God without there ever being a hand laid on them.

The fourteen point the LDS claim the true church must have reads:

The True Church must be a missionary church.

Any Bible believing Christian would agree. Taking the message of Christ to the world is a vital part of being Christian.

Christian missionaries share what?

Christianity.
The Bible.
Jesus.

Mormon missionaries share what?

Jesus.
Joseph Smith.
Joseph's plan of salvation.
Tithing.
Codes of conduct.
Families can be together forever.
Church.
Church.
Church.

I received an email in response to our show on LDS hymns not long ago and the writer made an interesting point.

It seems there is a great Christian hymn called "What a friend we have in Jesus."

It goes like this:

Interestingly, but ever indicative of what the LDS focus on and what their missionary force demands, they have taken the same tune, and changed the title and words:

It's called,

"Israel, Israel God is calling."

What does it focus and speak of?

(Read it)

I am also curious why Mormonism has thrived for several hundred years by pulling people out of their various church relationships rather than trailblazing out into the unknown and suffering regions of the world.

Christian the world over have always gone into remote villages and fed, taught, and assisted the world's underbelly with the saving message of Jesus and food.

Ever wonder why there are so many Christian missionaries who spend their lives in these third world places while the LDS have - especially between 1839 and 1950 - spent most of their efforts knocking on the doors of people with an existing church relationship, shallow as those relationships may have been?

And what was (and remains) the Missionary message:

"All the churches are corrupt - except ours."

<p>Any church can be a missionary church. But the question is, a missionary for what?</p> <p>Next week, we are going to embark on a three part series to respond to the 17th Point the LDS say must exist, and they summarize it with this phrase:</p> <p>“By their fruits ye shall know them.”</p> <p>Hang on to your hats.</p> <p>Let’s open up the phones:</p> <p>(801) 973-8820 (801) 973-TV20</p> <p>As we await on the operators to clear the calls, allow me three minutes to respond to a caller last week by a man who calls himself Harley.</p>	
<p>Now Harley pulled a standard LDS move regarding the Bible – he took a single verse, interpreted it to fit his LDS beliefs, and called to tell us what it meant.</p> <p>I told Harley on the air last week that while I was unsure of the true contextual interpretation of the passage, I knew his interpretation – which was that Jesus Christ is a created being – was wrong.</p> <p>Before we discuss the verse and its real meaning relative to other verses in the Word, I would like to make a couple points:</p> <p>First, did Harley’s question support the</p>	

divinity and deity of Jesus or did it demean Him?

To say the Christ was created does nothing but lower Him relative to the truth that He is the first, the last, the alpha, the omega, uncreated and eternal.

So the first point to bring out when you are asked a question by LDS defenders of the faith is:

“What is your purpose in suggesting this belief?

The second point you may consider is there is nothing wrong with not knowing the answers. It isn't a matter of winning or losing, if it is, then your missing the point. But it is a matter of discovering the truth.

You will often find with self appointed defenders of the LDS faith they are not in the discussion to discover truth but are in it to win.

So don't be embarrassed to say - if they extract a single standing verse and make an entire argument by it - that you have to research it.

Odds are they won't want your researched answer, just as I'm certain Harley is not interested in a contextual understanding of this verse, but YOU will gain knowledge and strength by searching it out fearlessly.

That word “fearlessly” brings me to the final point before I give the answer to Harley's heresy: YOU HAVE

NOTHING TO FEAR IN SEARCHING
THE WORD BECAUSE IT WILL
ALWAYS, ALWAYS PROVIDE YOU
WITH A CONTEXTUAL ANSWER.

Got it?

Okay.

Harley called and quoted Revelation
3:14 which reads:

*“And unto the angel of the church of
the Laodiceans write; These things
saith the Amen, the faithful and true
witness, the beginning of the creation
of God.”*

Now I had an abundance of Bible
scholars write me with information on
this verse:

Louis W.

Russ P.

Kevin

Stephan N.

Annabelle and Kevin were among
them.

The verse says:

*“These things saith the Amen. the
faithful and true witness:”*

I think everyone – including Harley
agree that this is speaking of Jesus –
with the Amen being applied as a
personal pronoun to Him.

It is a personal pronoun that means, “so
be it.”

The reason the Amen is applied to Jesus is because Jesus is also known as the Word – and when God speaks, it is done – so be it.

But it is the next sentence that Harley used as evidence that Jesus was a created being, the line that reads that He is

“the beginning of the creation of God.”

Ho, ho, ho, he, he, he saith Harley without one whit of knowledge for the rest of the Word, “this proves Jesus was created!”

First, let’s look at the Greek word for beginning here. It is “archee” which refers to an origination instrument or an origin and not an chronological reference.

It means “the first cause” or an efficient cause.

Another word used to describe archee here is “the sourse.”

So the verse should be read:

These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the sourse of the creation of God.

Now Greek research is good, but we must also look to the Word itself to see if there are other verses which support this idea the Greek suggests.

Ut-oh, Harley, you should have been

attending a Bible teaching church all these years instead of your ward dinners.

John 1 says what about Jesus being the source?

Let's read it.

John 1:1 ¶ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 The same was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In case you are wondering, Harley, if the Word refers to Jesus, verse 14 says:

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.

Not convincing enough?

Let's read from Colossians 1

Colossians 1:14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

<p>Harley, come to the Lord.</p> <p>Believe in the uncreated One – the Lord God of all things, even Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Alright, phone calls.</p>	
<p>Five minutes left:</p> <p>Hey, as we close tonight, I want to read a wonderful piece of writing from a devote viewer of our show – Patricia.</p> <p>If you want to remain LDS, that is your decision. But for the time being, have you been “born of God?”</p> <p>At the end of every show, we have posted a scriptural reference: John 1:12-13</p> <p>It reads:</p> <p><i>“John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:</i></p> <p><i>13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”</i></p>	
<p>Conclusion:</p>	

Hey, tell your family and friends,
beginning August 12th
At 8pm, AM 820 "The Truth" will be
airing Heart of the Matter.

And take a moment and ask your
pastor if your church could participate
in the state-wide revival Burning Heart
'08 - The Day of Decision.

We'll see you next week, here on
HOTM.

<p>LIVE!</p> <p>From the “Mecca of Mormonism” SALT LAKE CITY!</p> <p>This is Heart of the Matter . . . <i>“Where Mormonism meets Biblical Christianity Face to Face.”</i></p>	<p>33 Seventeen Points XV By Their Fruits – Part I 08/05/2008</p> <p>And I’m your host, Shawn McCraney.</p>
<p>STREAMING VIDEO ANNOUNCEMENT</p>	
<p>MARK YOUR CALENDARS – Saturday September 20th from 3 to 9 pm BURNING HEART 08!</p> <p>Go to bornagainmormon.com for more information.</p>	
<p>We would like to take a moment to thank all of you – wherever you are and whomever you are – for your support and care for this ministry.</p> <p>We thank you for all you have done – and you know who you are – and all you continue to do in terms of prayer, encouragement, sharing information with us, telling others about the show, financial contributions, downloading shows and posting them in other places, and for all those things you do without any notice, recognition, or praise.</p> <p>We thank God for your hearts and hands.</p> <p>This past week we had eighteen young people come from California on a missions trip.</p>	

<p>They came to our Lord's Word services and lead worship – and they're going to do the same this coming Sunday.</p> <p>We've invited one of them to come on air and to share their testimony.</p> <p>This is _____ and ____ is from _____.</p> <hr/>	
<p>And with that, let's have a word of prayer.</p>	
<p>Aside from the phrase, "<i>I know</i>" there is perhaps no more-oft used line among the LDS people – especially by those seeking to promote Mormonism as the "<i>true Church</i>" – than the partially quoted passage:</p> <p><i>"By their fruits ye shall know them."</i></p> <p>Based on the amount of times the LDS use this phrase with me it seems they are generally quite confident that they lead the religious world in "good fruit" or works.</p> <p>LDS Apologists, Mormon missionaries, parents, and Seminary teachers the world over use this phrase when defending the false notion that Mormonism is "<i>true</i>" – even "<i>the only True Church on the face of the earth.</i>"</p> <p>(ROLE PLAYING)</p> <p><i>"How do I know that the Church is true?"</i> a missionary might rhetorically ask an investigator, <i>"Well, didn't Jesus say, "By</i></p>	

their fruits ye will know them? Now just take a look at our fruits!"

This statement - "*By their fruits ye shall know them*" - is the seventeenth point presented in "**The Seventeen Points of the True Church**" pamphlet used around the world.

Tonight we are going to embark on the first of a three part series relating exclusively to the phrase, it's meaning, and how it will do more to prove Mormonism false than true.

There are two MAJOR issues relative

Let's begin by looking at the context of these words of the Lord's that they use:

"By their fruits ye shall know them."

The line is found only in one place in the Bible - Matthew chapter seven.

Elements related to fruit bearing are far more abundant in scripture, but these words are only found in the Lord's Sermon on the Mount.

Here we run into our first problem with the LDS use of the phrase because they don't quote the whole verse!

They only quote seven words from the verse . . . and there are eight!

The passage actually has Jesus say:

"Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."

Now in scripture, whenever there is a “wherefore,” we need to ask:

“Wherefore is that wherefore therefore.”

Or WHY is there a “wherefore” used here?

There is a “wherefore” here because Jesus is teaching a principle and he concludes teaching this principle by telling the disciples that “you can be assured” that by THEIR fruits ye shall know THEM.”

Who is the “their” in “by their fruits” the Lord is speaking about?

Who is the “them” that we can know them?

Is it a church Jesus speaks about?

Wherefore, by a churches fruits ye shall know them?

No, it’s not.

Is it an organized religion he is speaking about?

Nay, nay, said the horse.

No, it is a very specific person-type Jesus says that by looking at their fruits we can know them . . .

(beat)

. . . and that person is someone who claims to be a prophet.

The teaching, in context, is only seven

verses long!

Let's read it in context. Ready?

Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

First the Lord warns the disciples – and then us through His Word - to BEWARE of false prophets.

Then He tells us how to tell if a person is a false or true prophet.

Now this is not new. He did the same thing for the Children of Israel in Deuteronomy:

Listen!

Deut 22 When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.

Deuteronomy 13:1 If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder,

2 And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them;

3 Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that

<p><i>17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.</i></p> <p><i>18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.</i></p>	<p>A tree cannot produce good and bad fruit (and when we speak of fruit being good and bad we are speaking of types of so-called fruit not the condition of the fruit itself).</p> <p>A banana is good fruit. A poison bug-ball is bad fruit.</p> <p>In other words, an apple tree cannot produce poison orb fruit. It can only produce apples.</p> <p>So the connection is if the tree produces a useful or edible fruit, it is a good tree, but if a tree produces an unusable fruit it is bad.</p> <p>By these fruits you will know what kind of tree (or prophet) it is.</p> <p>Get it?</p> <p>Jesus continues, supporting this idea:</p> <p>So here, speaking of how to detect a false prophet, Jesus says a false prophet cannot produce good fruit.</p> <p>He also says that neither can a true prophet produce bad fruit.</p> <p>So we are faced with a mind-blowing</p>
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	<p>either/or in light of this:</p> <p>Either all the fruit produced by Joseph Smith is good fruit OR nothing produced by Joseph Smith can be considered good fruit.</p> <p>Get it?</p> <p>You see, God knows that anything that is produced which does not proceed from Him and His will is bad fruit – even if it <i>seems</i> to serve humanity or feed the poor or give people jobs.</p> <p>His view is on the eternal life of man, not on the temporal needs – though the temporal needs are important to Him.</p> <p>But better to starve physically with a true idea of God than starve spiritually with a belly full of food.</p> <p>We can not say, and be in accordance with God's ways, that some things an evil despot does are good because in the end, they will lead or contribute to something bad.</p> <p>It's sort of like donating money to the KKK because they are hosting a blood drive for senior citizens.</p> <p>Now, admittedly, I've had to repent on this issue. Change my mind.</p> <p>I used to be of the opinion that "Well, this Godless institution or that humanitarian philosophy does certainly do some good here on earth so while I don't agree with their</p>
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	<p>ideologies I really like their bake sales.</p> <p>But now, relative to God's Word, I see I was wrong.</p> <p>Because the "some good" they appear to do in the end leads to ways that are not of God – therefore all that they do is bad!</p> <p>This is why people boycott certain corporations who provide good products but are unconscionable in the manufacturing of them.</p> <p>God is no different!</p> <p>Remember what Jesus said in John 15:</p> <p><i>John 15:4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.</i></p> <p>He says, "I could give a rat's rear end of you feed the poor if your feeding the poor gets them to embrace a false notion of who I am!"</p> <p>Get it?</p> <p>A tree cannot produce both Granny Smith apples and disease laden apples and be considered good. This is not what the teaching suggests.</p> <p>So where I used to say Mormonism</p>
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19 Every tree that bringeth not forth
good fruit is hewn down, and cast into
the fire.

20 Wherefore by *their* fruits
(meaning the fruits of people who call
themselves prophets) ye shall know
them (meaning the prophets
themselves).

does “a lot of good in the world,” I am now of the opinion that relative to God’s perspective all the good they actually do contributes to leading people from Him – because of Joseph’s teachings - and that can only be bad.

So Jesus continues.

Again, a tree that does not produce good fruit is a tree that only produces bad fruit.

There is no in between.

And then He concludes:

Here lies some of the issues with the
LDS application of this verse

- 1) It is not quoted completely.
- 2) It is stated out of context.
- 3) It refers to prophets false or true and not to the “works of a church or its people.”
- 4) It puts their founding prophet – who provided the majority of the LDS doctrinal fruits – on the stand for trial.
- 5) Finally, it strongly suggests that if any of the fruit on the LDS tree can be considered bad, then all of it is bad.

A second way the Lord uses fruits in scripture is when He speaks of the “spiritual developments or fruits” which flow from INDIVIDUAL Christians who are being sanctified by exposure to the spirit.

We will talk about these nine specific fruits in the lives of Christians in a week or two.

But again, the Word does not speak of the collective spiritual fruits of a particular church or denomination, but rather it always speaks of the fruits of the spirit that are present in individual believers.

Why this is important is that it shows that the Church of Jesus Christ is made up of individual believers from all denominations and NOT a “true Church.”

So where members of the LDS church attempt to say, “Look at the fruits of our Church,” that is not scriptural.

To say, “look at the fruits of this believer or that believer,” is!

The very notion that God has one true Church on the face of this earth which is confined to a specific denomination or sect or institution insipidly places the works or fruits of the institution above the spiritually generated fruits of the individual believer . . . and that is wrong.

Now, in the end, Mormonism would

	<p>love to portray that idea that everything Joseph Smith introduced to the world was a “good fruit.”</p> <p>If they suggested otherwise, or admitted that some of the things he taught were wrong, they would have to admit – in light of this passage - that he was false throughout.</p> <p>This is why they will not rescind the doctrine on polygamy or the teachings on blood atonement.</p> <p>To admit Joseph was wrong on one thing, would be to admit he was false on everything.</p> <p>LDS defenders cry that Joseph was “just a man,” and that he did things “good and bad” - like all men - and they claim to accept the good and leave the bad behind.</p> <p>Had Joseph not invoked the name of God in some of his “bad practices” I might agree.</p> <p>Had he said, “We’ll I think polygamy is in the Bible and allowed or I think God the Father might have a body” we would have a lot more patience with Him – but He said GOD said these things or showed him these things!</p> <p>He said, “Thus saith the Lord,” all over the place to present a plethora of absolute lies!</p> <p>And this places him squarely on the stand to be judged of whether all his fruits were good – or if they were bad</p>
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<p>So what are the fruits Joseph Smith introduced to the world?</p> <p>Were they fruits that were produced from Jesus Christ Himself and have they continued forward to this day, growing sweeter and sweeter with time?</p> <p>How have the fruits Joseph presented to the world as being from God influenced the LDS Church and its members today?</p> <p>We'll discuss these fruits specifically and in detail next week, then the following week we'll discuss what the nine spiritual fruits are of those individuals who truly are tapped into the vine called Jesus.</p> <p>Let's open up the phones:</p> <p>(801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p>	<p>– there is no in between.</p>
EMAILS	
<p>Hey, we'd love for you to join us on any given Sunday for prayer, worship, and studying the Word.</p> <p>Go to www.lordsword.org for times and</p>	

directions of services.	
Until we meet again, God bless, and we'll see you next week here on Heart of the Matter!	

<p>LIVE! From the Mecca of Mormonism SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH</p> <p>This is . . . HEART OF THE MATTER</p> <p><i>“Where Mormonism Meets Biblical Christianity Face to Face.”</i></p>	<p>Show 34 Seventeen Points XVI By their fruits – Part II</p> <p>08/12/2008</p> <p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>LIVE STREAMING VIDEO</p> <p>Hotm.tv</p>	
<p>As we speak, five young men, four of which are returned missionaries for the LDS church, are traveling by bus from Florida to Salt Lake City.</p> <p>Collectively they make-up “Adam’s Road” a Christian band</p> <p>(those Returned Missionaries all came to know the Lord and abandoned ship for the Lord!)</p> <p>We’ll there going to lead our worship at Lord’sWord this coming Sunday morning.</p> <p>Come join us and hear and meet, Adam’s Road.</p> <p>Then, next week here on Heart of the Matter, these young men will share their stories with us before we go to the phones.</p> <p>So, again, this Sunday, 9:15 at the Gateway Movie Theaters and then next Tuesday, here on set with Adam’s Road</p>	

<p>- four LDS RM'S who came to know the Lord.</p>	
<p>Burning Heart 08! This coming Sept 20th - a Saturday at Sugarhouse Park.</p> <p>Music. Food. Fun. Worship.</p> <p>Put it on your calendars. It's a great way to congregate, invite your LDS family and friends, and hear a message of salvation.</p> <p>We're even going to have a baptismal pool for open water baptisms.</p> <p>Plan on coming. Burning Heart 08.</p>	
<p>Hey . . . (beat)</p> <p>How's project Abandon Ship going?</p> <p>Have you requested your name off the records of the LDS Church yet?</p> <p>If not, take the time, go to UTLM.org, and inform yourself about how to do it.</p> <p>We have read from dozens and dozens of people who seem to say the same things once they've done it -</p> <p>"A huge weight was lifted off our backs."</p> <p>"A peace came over my life."</p>	

<p>"I felt free for the first time . . . free to really love and follow Jesus as He would like."</p> <p>Send a message: Take a stand:</p> <p>(Audience)</p> <p>ABANDON SHIP!</p>	
<p>Alright, over the last eleven days I received 314 emails.</p> <p>Many of them were full of really good insights, information, and thoughts.</p> <p>We thank you.</p> <p>I'm going to review some – not all – but some of the best.</p>	
<p>The first came from two different sources - my good brother Brandon and a writer named Ken.</p> <p>Ken wrote to say that he had the LDS missionaries over and they opened the Bible – King James Version - and as they were reading learned that in Mormonism, the KJV has an additional 15 verses added on to Genesis!</p> <p>There are verses added all through the Bible, my friends, and they were added by Joseph Smith in what the LDS refer to as the JST (or Joseph Smith translation).</p> <p>Now I used to tell people that the KJV of the Bible the LDS use is the same as others because they have not included</p>	

<p>the JST into their version.</p> <p>But Brandon pointed out that there are other LDS influences added into their KJV.</p> <p>(Show Ezekiel verses)</p>	<p>(GRAPHIC)</p> <p>Not only have they biased or loaded their KJV of the Bible with an LDS slant, they have also added many of the JST additions, changes, and subtractions in the footnotes of the Bible they use.</p> <p>Lesson?</p> <p>As Fall comes upon us, and you go to build the first fire in your home, take the LDS version of God's word – and BURN the little freak to death.</p>
<p>This past week, according to the Deseret News, Robert A Rees, a former editor of the LDS periodical Dialogue delivered a speech at the Salt Lake Sunstone Symposium.</p> <p>In my opinion, his speech was one of the most important speeches a Latter-day Saint has given in the past thirty years.</p> <p>According to the Deseret News article, dated August 9th . . . (see article)</p>	
<p>Diana M. sent me an interesting email which she claims was taken from the LDS handbook of instruction relative to the topic of issuing temple recommends</p>	

<p>to people who have family members who are considered apostate:</p> <p>(Read it)</p>	
<p>A person who identified themselves as “a Salt Lake person” wrote:</p> <p>(see email)</p>	
<p>A number of viewers forwarded this AP article to me from <i>KTVB.COM News Now</i>.</p> <p>The Title:</p> <p>“Polygamists fight church to be called Mormon.”</p> <p>Really interesting.</p> <p>It talks about how the Fundamentalist LDS are sick and tired of the mainstream Mormon church’s attempts to control the media defines each sect.</p> <p>(read report)</p>	
<p>Finally, we have had a great group of kids from Bellflower CA here sharing, singing, and supporting the local Christian churches.</p> <p>I wanted to take a moment before they return home and ask one of their leaders Nathan some questions about their experience here in Utah doing missionary work.</p> <p>Thanks for going live, Nathan.</p> <p>So first some questions:</p>	

<p>How old are you, Nathan?</p> <p>How long have you been a Christian?</p> <p>How long have you been in ministry?</p> <p>Have you ever been to Utah before?</p> <p>Tell us the places where you have been witnessing, you've been to Logan right?</p> <p>Now generalities can be dangerous, but if you could sort-of summarize your perspective of the LDS - again, generally, what would you say?</p> <p>What approach did you use when you were out on the street teaching?</p> <p>From what you've seen and experiences - and you can say whatever is in your heart here, Nathan - do you think there are Latter-day Saints who are in fact saved? Who do, in fact, know and have saving faith in the Jesus of the Bible?</p> <p>One last question:</p> <p>What do you see as the greatest obstacle to the LDS Church becoming an acceptable sect or denomination of Christianity proper?</p> <p>Is there anything you would like to say to the viewing audience?</p>	
<p>And with this, let's have a word of prayer.</p>	
<p>The Seventeenth Point of what the LDS call "The True Church" is a paraphrase</p>	

of scripture that says:

“By their fruits ye shall know them.”

Last week we pointed out several things relative to this passage:

First, the passage was spoken by Jesus and it was in reference on to how to tell if a self-proclaimed prophet was true or not.

Secondly, we discussed how the Lord was very clear that a tree (which represents a true or false prophet of God) CANNOT bear both good and bad fruit - it either bears all good fruit or all bad fruit and it is by this fruit that we can tell if the tree (or prophet) is of God or not.

Finally, we talked about how the individual fruits a person bears are indicative of his or her *Christianity* - or personal relationship with Jesus - and that they're NOT fruits of a single or particular religion.

We pointed this out because it shows that the Body of Christ - which is the True Church - is made up of believers tapped into the Vine and NOT an institution that claims to be His Church.

Got it?

Okay, tonight, we are going to apply the Lord's teachings in Matthew Seven to the self-proclaimed prophet Joseph Smith, Jr.

He claimed to receive revelations from God's mouth to his ear.

His believing contemporaries claimed he was a prophet.

Latter-day Saints today still refer to him as, "The Prophet."

Referring to Joseph Smith, the Mormons today heartily will sing:

*"Hail to the prophet
Ascend into heaven
Traitors and tyrants
Now fight him in vane
Mingling with gods
He now plans for his brethren
Death shall not conquer the hero
again."*

Interestingly, almost ALL LDS doctrine, practice, and I would suggest even culture, comes from the things Joseph Smith claimed were from God.

Relatively speaking, all of the LDS prophets after Joseph Smith have provided very few (ahem) doctrinal revelations to the members of the Church.

I can think of tithing being implemented.

And the end of the earthly practice of polygamy.

Brigham Young's Adam/God doctrine (which the LDS today say never was official doctrine).

Joseph Fielding Smith's dream revelation of Christ organizing the spirits in the spirit world, and

the revelation that all worthy males could have the priesthood in 1978.

Almost EVERYTHING else came from Joseph Smith.

In my opinion, which is certainly not fact or truly reliable, but in my opinion, everything Mormons do today – whether they are mainstream LDS, Fundamental LDS, crazy-fool LDS, or faithful LDS – is fruit from the tree called Joseph Smith, Jr.

So we're going to take the next two shows and apply the Saviors teachings to Joseph Smith and see if his fruit was all good and therefore all from God or if the fruits have ever been evil, and therefore were not of God.

I am going to progress through this chronologically.

I am going to begin with Josephs early dealings with people and his representing himself as God's servant, and try and point out fruits that were established from him as "the prophet."

Let me say from the beginning that the World might look at MormonISM, and say they are a tree that may have once produced some strange fruit, but today they have grown into a tree of exceptional fruitage.

I would remind you of a couple of things.

First, it depends on your perspective. From an earthly perspective – a

humanist perspective – Mormonism is perhaps the best producer of fruits.

They are hard workers (generally).

They have thrift and industry down pretty well.

They are organized.

Good at keeping records.

Are self-disciplined.

Appear to have family values.

Expect a high standard of behavior.

And produce good theater, choir, and performance arts.

But remember, Karl Marx could have been the author of their underlying philosophy.

Or Sun Yung Moon, or L. Ron Hubbard, or Mother Teresa, or any leader bent on a human course that leads to action.

The QUESTION is, do the fruits of Mormonism come from God?

Looking way back to 1820, I would suggest Joseph, who was failing at making a living searching for buried treasure with his father, transferred his skill at money digging to religion – and with it was born the fruit of deception.

He deceived people about his claims to “see” money and treasure buried in the earth with a stone. This very same stone was used to produce the Book of Mormon, according to him and other witnesses.

He deceived people into believing he saw God. And then God and Jesus. Then angels. Then finally God the Father in a body of flesh and bone with

<p>the Son standing next to Him.</p> <p>He deceived them relative to the origins and contents of the Book of Abraham.</p> <p>He deceived them with convenient ad hoc revelations that make up the Doctrine and Covenants.</p> <p>He deceived young women about God telling him that they must be his wife, and he deceived his wife by hiding these women from her.</p> <p>This “fruit of deception” completely enrages the God of Heaven and earth.</p> <p>Remember his words in Deuteronomy 13:</p> <p>If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.</p> <p>And what does God say to the Children of Israel who teach such things:</p> <p>Verse 5</p> <p>“And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from</p>	
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the LORD your God.”

The fruit of deception, introduced by Joseph Smith to the world, has bore seeds, and the spirit of deception is alive and well in the hearts of Mormonism everywhere.

It is no wonder that the State of Utah is known by the SEC as the securities fraud capital of the nation – if not the world!

Mark Hoffman, a returned missionary, temple attending Mormon, was able to deceive all sorts of LDS people – especially the higher-up leadership – because he knew they had no ability to discern a lie!

He ended up killing people in the end.

The concept of Lying for the Lord is well established among many of the faithful LDS – who believe there are times when a lie – especially a lie to protect the Church – is justified AND OF GOD HIMSELF – who scripture says cannot lie.

Sadly, because of Joseph’s teachings, deception is alive and well in the lives of every local level member.

Self-deception.

Whenever they take the LDS sacrament, they make a covenant with God to obey all of His commandments fully aware – fully aware – that they are going to break them.

And yet they promise, by sacramental

<p>covenant, to keep all of His commandments.</p> <p>This is not lying for the Lord, it's lying TO the Lord.</p> <p>We had a caller a number of months ago state something to the effect that:</p> <p><i>"When I left the LDS Church, I stopped lying."</i></p> <p>Sad but true.</p> <p>In order to be worthy to enter the temple, you have to answer a series of questions.</p> <p>They are presented in a way that the only way to pass them is to be both deceiving and self-deceptive.</p> <p><i>"Wherefore, by these fruits, ye shall know Joseph."</i></p> <p>Let's open up the phone lines.</p> <p>(801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p> <p>(Emails)</p>	
<p><i>Jonah 2:8 They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.</i></p> <p><i>Hosea 10:1 ¶ Israel is an empty vine, he bringeth forth fruit unto himself: according to the multitude of his fruit he hath increased the altars; according to the goodness of his land they have made goodly images.</i></p>	

<p><i>Hosea 10:13 “ye have eaten the fruit of lies: because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men.”</i></p> <p><i>Matthew 13:22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.</i></p> <p><i>Romans 7:4 Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.</i></p> <p><i>Galatians 5:-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.</i></p>	
<p>CONCLUSION</p> <p>Okay, now don't forget – THIS SUNDAY, at the GATEWAY THEATERS in downtown Salt Lake City, come and see “Adam's Road” a music group that includes four faithful returned LDS missionaries who have come to see the light – and abandoned ship.</p> <p>It will be worth the experience.</p> <p>Then next week, we're going to feature Adam's Road here on Heart of the Matter and hear about their journey, the differences between being LDS and a Christian, and why they would leave what they Mormon's claim is “The Only True Church on the face of the earth.”</p> <p>Until then, we'll see you next week, here</p>	

on Heart of the Matter.	
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<p>LIVE! From the "Mecca of Mormonism" This is . . . HEART OF THE MATTER</p> <p><i>"Where Mormonism meets Biblical Christianity Face to Face!"</i></p>	<p>Seventeen Points XVII "By their fruits ye shall know them" Part 3</p> <p>08/19/2008</p> <p>And I'm your host, Shawn McCraney</p>
<p>Hey, what a great show we're going to have tonight.</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>We've got Adam's Road here, a Christian band of musicians four of which are LDS returned missionaries . . . who abandoned ship and embraced the Gospel according to Jesus Christ!</p>	
<p>If you have family or friends who aren't able to watch Heart of the Matter live on television, give them a call and have them go to www.hotm.tv where they can watch the show from anywhere in the world through STREAMING VIDEO!</p>	
<p>Now we hope you will all make an effort to join us for Burning Heart 08 this September 20th from 3-9pm at Sugarhouse Park.</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>We have viewers from all over Utah who are NOT connected to any church in their neighborhoods.</p> <p>We want to invite all the Christian Churches in the state to come and represent themselves there.</p> <p>That way, they have a face and a church</p>	

<p>name to turn to when they decide to attend some day.</p> <p>We also need YOU – that’s right, YOU – to invite and or even bring your inactive LDS friends and neighbors to the event.</p> <p>There will be booths, food, music, a short gospel message at the end, and a baptismal font for anyone seeking to dedicate themselves to the Lord!</p> <p>Saturday, September 20th 3pm to 9pm.</p> <p>The final hurrah of Summer.</p>	
<p>“I Was a Born-Again Mormon”</p> <p>Pick one up at the following fine retailers or ministries nearest you:</p> <p>Oasis Books in Logan New Life books in Layton Sam Weller’s in downtown SLC Dolly’s books in Park City Utah Lighthouse Ministry (or UTLM.org) in Mid Salt Lake City CCSLC bookstore Lifeway books in Murray area Christian Gift and Bible in Sandy Gift of Grace books in Springville</p> <p>If you are out of the area, you can always get the book at bornagainmormon.com and if you truly cannot afford one email us and we’ll get one out to you free of charge.</p> <p>“I Was a Born-Again Mormon”</p>	
<p>We’ve had a number of you forward an article that was in the Ogden Standard</p>	

Examiner last week about the presidential elections, Christianity, and Mormonism.

I have to refrain from making any comments - one way or another - regarding anyone running for public office.

Last year I gave some opinions on the Presidential campaigns and some people thought it wasn't very proper of me.

And launched some complaints to the IRS, who in turn chose to investigate us fully and thoroughly.

With some outstanding legal representation - the Pacific Justice League - our ministry, which could have been sanctioned, fined, and/or even had our 501c3 tax exempt status taken away came out unscathed.

But I was sternly warned.

So regarding political issues, my friends, I must remain, hard as it is to be, silent.

<p>LIVE! From the “Mecca of Mormonism” SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH This is <u>Heart of the Matter</u>! <i>“Where Mormonism Meets Christianity Face to Face.”</i></p>	<p>Show 36 Seventeen Points - Part XVII “By Their fruits” - Part III</p> <p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>.....</p> <p>Streaming Video Announcement HOTM.TV</p> <p>.....</p> <p>AM 820 The Truth! Listen to Heart of the Matter every Tuesday night from 8-9pm</p> <p>(hold up sign) 820 AM The Truth –</p> <p>And excellent station – it’s all I listen to because by listening to it, I learn more and more about the word.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Our good friend and YouTube poster Andreas out in Norway, sent this email to us:</p> <p>(Read email)</p> <p>We thank him for his voluntary dedication to getting Heart out there.</p>	
<p>Burning Heart 08</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SUGARHOUSE PARK Saturday Sept 20th • Food • Fun • Great Music • Hear the Word 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open water baptisms • Come welcome the fall with all of us at <p>BURNING HEART 08 The Day of Decision</p> <p>Our state-wide outreach to all our searching LDS and non-Christian family, friends, and neighbors!</p>	
<p>One of my children received this in the mail from a faithful member of the LDS Church – thought we’d share it with you tonight.</p> <p>(Show insert of Joseph Smith deal)</p> <p>At the bottom it reads:</p> <p><i>“Joseph Smith, the Prophet and Seer of the Lord, has done more, save Jesus only, for the salvation of men in this world, than any other man that ever lived in it.”</i></p> <p>D&C 135:5</p> <p>Aside from the obvious heinousness this thing represents to Christians, have you ever wondered why the LDS Church believes it’s necessary to constantly promote Joseph Smith in this manner?</p> <p>Why do they relentlessly make people accept his stuff?</p> <p>Isn’t Jesus enough?</p> <p>Wasn’t Jesus Christ able to deliver a gospel that could withstand the corruption of men? Or did Joseph have</p>	

to do it?

I ask this because there is a very good point in the questioning.

I mean, I suppose we can accept an occasional recognition or mention of a man who helped start a religious movement. But this weekly drip, drip, drip even to the exclusion of Jesus, is nothing short of diabolical.

This quote, included in the LDS scripture known as the Doctrine and Covenants was inflated enough. But compared to Joseph Smith's own self-description, it anemic!

Listen to what Joseph said about Himself:

"I have more to boast of than any man had. I am the only man that has ever been able to keep a whole church together since the days of Adam. A large majority of the whole have stood by me. Neither Paul, John, Peter nor Jesus ever did it. I boast that no man ever did such a work as I. The followers of Jesus ran away from Him; but the Latter-day Saints never ran away from me yet."

(From History of the Church, Volume 6., page 408-409)

These very words could have easily been spoken by David Koresh, Jim Jones, Sun Yun Moon, L. Ron Hubbard or Poe - but ask yourself, would the

<p>Apostle Paul have ever said such a thing?</p> <p>Peter? John?</p> <p>How about . . . Vernon McGee? John Macathur Swindol? Chuck Smith? Billy Graham?</p> <p>When will you wake up, open your eyes, and ears, and heart, and see what your paying allegiance too, my friends?</p>	
<p>All right, before we get to our message, we're going to take a minute and</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>SET THINGS STRAIGHT!</u> (BIG GRAPHIC HERE)</p> <p>Today's verse is going to be from the Old Testament and it's a verse the LDS have long used to biblically support the Book of Mormon:</p> <p>Two weeks ago we mentioned that in the LDS King James Version of the Bible, the preface to these verses said:</p> <p>So let's go to our trusty white board and break this verse down, shall we?</p>	<p><i>Ezekiel 37:15 ¶ The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying,</i> <i>16 Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his</i></p>

	<p>companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, <i>For</i> Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions:</p> <p>17 And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.</p> <p>18 And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou meanest by these?</p> <p>19 Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the <i>stick</i> of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the <i>stick</i> of Judah, and make them <i>one stick</i>, and they shall be one in mine hand.</p> <p>20 And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes.</p>
And with this, let's have a prayer.	
PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER	PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER
<p>We've been talking on the "Seventeen Points" that the LDS claim are signs of the true church and the seventeenth point states:</p> <p>"By their fruits ye shall know them."</p> <p>Two weeks ago we spoke about the first fruits of Joseph Smith - deception.</p> <p>Remember, if any ANY of the fruits of a prophet (that he suggests come from the LORD) are bad, then he is a bad prophet.</p> <p>Tonight, I want to introduce you to another fruit Joseph Smith introduced to the world - and Mormonism today still operates upon it:</p>	

<p>“Revelation without scriptural substantiation” or in other words, the idea of getting people to rely on “their own feelings to determine truth” instead of reason, facts, and the Word of God.</p>	
<p>Mormon missionaries from all over the world give what is called the Book of Mormon Challenge.</p> <p>Missionaries throw this challenge out to people as a means to test whether the Book of Mormon is true.</p> <p>Joseph Smith actually included the premise in the Book of Mormon itself when he had the fictional character Moroni write:</p> <p>“And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost.”</p> <p>The LDS believe that this manifestation will come to the heart of a sincere seeker of faith by way of feelings and emotional responses.</p> <p>This test or challenge is nothing but a carnival trick.</p> <p>When a person is challenged, the only</p>	

“acceptable result” would be to claim to have received the witness of the truth of it because the qualifications required to know the truth about it are that you must “ask with real intentions and sincerity and with faith in Jesus Christ” in order to get the confirmation that it is a true book!

Therefore, if you don’t get the confirmation, whose fault is it?

It’s YOURS!

You lack the faith, YOU lack the sincerity, YOU lack real intention.

“Now, get back in there, Ma’am and really really bear down hard – squint your eyes, sister, and sincerely ask if the book is not true!”

Again, the onus for veracity falls upon your ability to be genuine and real and sincere and faith-filled.

You see, to the LDS, it is not possible for the book to be wrong. Therefore, YOU must be wrong.

There are few more entertaining things around than when a Latter-day Saint asks you if you read the book of Mormon and prayed about it to say:

“Yes, I did.”

And what was the answer.

“That it was untrue.”

“But, that can’t be.”

“No, Elder, it be.”

“But you must not have really prayed.”

“Oh, let me tell you, I prayed.”

“But, did you understand the promise?
Were you sincere.”

“I was Elder. The book is false.”

“But . . . but the challenge promises,
promises . . . promises!”

The whole enchilada is faulty from the
start.

First, let look at the challenge itself.

Nowhere in the Bible does it ever ask
you to pray to know the Bible is true.
Why? Because the Bible stands on it's
own merits.

It has a real history.
From real places and people.

(Show book)

SO while we are requested to go to God
for “wisdom” – which is knowledge
applied, listen to what God says in the
Word about finding truth:

1st John 4:1 ¶ Beloved, believe not every
spirit, but try the spirits whether they
are of God: because many false
prophets are gone out into the world.

2nd Corinthians 13:5 Examine
yourselves, whether ye be in the faith;
prove your own selves. Know ye not
your own selves, how that Jesus Christ
is in you, except ye be reprobates?

1Th 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

Speaking of the Berean's, Luke wrote that they:

“received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”

We have a manual of God's Word, and by it we test and compare and research all things.

This book is frankly out of this world.

And in it, the apostles of Jesus Christ – who were trained and made clean by His Word, recorded the Word of God for the body of Christ.

Don't ever forget Galatians 1:6-8 which says:

Galatians 1:6-8 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Ask ANY knowledgeable Bible teacher, scholar or believer who also understands Mormonism if Mormonism is “another gospel” and without equivocation they will say

“without question.”

2nd Corinthians 11:13-15 reiterates

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

It is not biblical to pray if a Book is True, one must test what it has to say!

If it contradicts what has already been said, it fails.

God is NOT a God of contradiction.

Now many people will say, “they know the Church or the Book of Mormon is true because they really, really feel that it is.”

Should we pray whether it is right to follow Anton Levey’s Satanic Bible? How do we know that we won’t suddenly feel that it is correct too?

No, we DON’T pray over Anton Levey’s Satanic Bible because God has already spoken against Satanist philosophy, therefore to pray about it, no matter how much we WANT it to be true, is counter-intuitive!

To “accept” or “believe” in something because you really feel it is right cannot make the thing true.

Instead, you set yourself up to be deceived.

Faith is the SUBSTANCE of things hoped for, the EVIDENCE of things not seen.

I've mentioned this before, but one of Hitler's henchmen said something to the effect that you cannot understand Hitler by reason, you can only understand him by feeling.

Hitler manipulated millions of people – hard-working, industrious, moral people – to heinous action through emotionalism.

Otto Dietrich, Head of Hitler's Press Service once said:

“By nature Hitler was a bohemian. He allowed himself to be guided almost exclusively by emotional considerations.”

Emotionalism is dangerous in ANY form of belief delivery system. We are all aware that to win over a crowd we can resort to tears, laughter, guilt, and anger to move them any way we want.

Revelation without scriptural substantiation was a hallmark trait of Joseph Smith.

He could conjure up an answer to just about anything and they present it with such feeling and emotion that all would follow.

This spirit lives on today.

Attend a fast a testimony meeting at an LDS Church if you want to witness it.

Even easier, go to youtube and search out these self-appointed LDS defenders of the faith and listen to their messages – especially pay attention to their use of music – when it starts to play:

We have a manual that includes the only True Gospel of Jesus Christ.

People of all Christian faiths and sects use it, turn to it, trust it.

When you want truth, turn to the manual, and run as fast as you can from these sugary sweet emotionalists who pander to the heart strings instead of to the facts.

We're going to conclude with a Youtube clip of a woman telling us how she came to know that Mormonism is "true."
Understand, her method of determining truth is exactly what all mad-men have used to sway people into their lurid visions of truth.

And with that, let's go to the phones:

(801) 973-8820

(801) 973-TV20

LDS callers, please
First time callers, please.
Turn off the television
Keep your question short.

EMAILS	
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<p>CONCLUSION</p> <p>Hey now, if you've been listening on AM 820 the Truth! we are so pleased and excited.</p> <p>Because if you can't get us through television or the internet, you can always get to us through The Truth 820 on the AM dial!</p> <p>And remember, invite your family and friends and neighbors to BURNING HEART 08. Saturday Sept 20th Sugarhouse Park 3-9pm Go to www.bornagainmormon.com For more information.</p> <p>God bless you, we'll see you next week, here on HOTM!</p>	

<p>Live! From the <u>"Mecca of Mormonism"</u> -SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH- This is Heart of the Matter . . .</p> <p><i>"Where Mormonism Meets Christianity Face to Face!"</i></p>	<p>Show 37 Seventeen Points XVIII By their Fruits – Part IV Violence</p> <p>And I'm Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>If you have family or friends or enemies that should or would like to watch the show but don't receive it, have them go to www.hotm.tv and they can watch "Heart" from anywhere in the world through streaming video!</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Hey, Heart of the Matter can also be heard tonight – right now, in fact, on KUTR AM 820 – "The Truth"</p> <p>This is a new AM radio station here in Utah and let me tell you, they deliver the goods:</p> <p>50000 watts of transmission power Tremendous programming where you actually hear the Word! And now they air Heart of the Matter every Wednesday Night from 8 to 9 pm!</p> <p>KUTR AM 820 – The Truth</p>	
<p>It's getting cooler, eh? The wonder of Fall is on its way!</p> <p>Join us as we welcome fall into our lives by coming to Sugarhouse Park on Saturday, September 20th from 3-9pm for BURNING HEART 08 "The Day of Decision"</p>	

It will be a time to eat popcorn, subway food, and snowcones at a deep discount.

To listen to some awesome live music.

To meet and greet with people from all over the state!

To hear a brief message and to even be baptized in a heated pool to publicly display your faith in the Lord.

Invite your neighbors and family members.

Bring a blanket, your own food if you want, and a desire to hear truth.

Saturday, September 20th
Sugarhouse Park
From 3 to 9 pm

Burning Heart 08
"The Day of Decision"

Let me remind any and all of you that if you are searching for information and truth, go to UTLM.org

Now we often have people come and say that there are a lot of other websites that have detailed information on them regarding Mormonism.

This is true.

But UTLM.org has been around a long time. They are reliable. They are fair. And they use references from Mormonism itself.

<p>www.utlm.org</p>	
<p>If you are looking for a place to learn the Word verse by verse from beginning to end, come join us every Sunday at the University of Utah.</p> <p>Directions are available at www.lordsword.org.</p> <p>We are no longer gathering at the theaters in downtown Salt Lake but have moved both meetings to the University of Utah.</p> <p>The first meeting is from 9:15 to 10:15 am The second is from 7 to 8 pm. As a result of the move, and because of our focus on the Word, we are calling these meetings:</p> <p>Christian Assemblies Meeting (to) Prayerfully Understand Scripture – or C*A*M*P*U*S</p> <p>Beginning September 21st – a Sunday – we will be holding CAMPUS services at Utah State, Weber State, and the University of Utah.</p> <p>All are welcome.</p> <p>If you have a church you attend, keep going, and use us as a resource.</p> <p>If you don't have a church you attend, come use us as your church until you chose to move on.</p> <p>We are here to teach the Word of God – Beginning to end – Verse by verse –</p>	<p>(GRAPHIC HERE)</p>

<p>In order to equip people with knowledge of our Lord.</p>	
<p>Last week, a great friend who came to know the Lord and came out of Mormonism attended an LDS service for the first time in years.</p> <p>She told me that her intention was to really listen to what was said and who was being talked about.</p> <p>It was a testimony meeting which took place on the east bench of Salt Lake City.</p> <p>She is a God fearing Christian woman where speaking truth is very important.</p> <p>She told me that she was blown away at the number of times Joseph Smith's name was used in the testimonies of others (nine, was her count) verse Jesus, Jesus Christ, Savior, etc) which was NONE with the exception of closing in His name.</p> <p>She walked out absolutely mortified.</p> <p>Now I, personally, have no problem AT ALL with a church or group teaching whatever they want – but DON'T CALL YOURSELF Christian.</p> <p>If Mormonism willingly accepts praise and glory to be heaped upon a man, that is their right. God Himself hasn't put a stop to it.</p> <p>But by golly don't you dare try to include yourself in the Body of Christ, where men are nothing, and God is all.</p>	

<p>On February 16th, 1847, when John D Lee was in a highly favored position as a Latter-day Saint, he wrote in his journal that Brigham Young taught:</p> <p><i>“Joseph (Smith) will stand at the head of this Church and will be their president, prophet, and GOD to the people of this dispensation.”</i></p> <p>Twenty two years later, Wilford Woodruff, in 1869, wrote in his journal that Brigham Young said:</p> <p><i>“Some have though it strange what I have said concerning Adam. But the period will come when this people of (or if) faithful will be willing to adopt Joseph Smith as their Prophet, Seer, Revelator, and GOD . . . but not the father of their spirits for that was Father Adam.”</i></p> <p>From roots like this, from this early tree called Mormonism, it is no wonder that Mormonism continues to unabashedly, even blasphemously, praise His name, disseminate images of him throughout the world, tearfully sing hymns about his life, and speak more frequently and passionately about his person than the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Shame on every single one of you.</p>	
<p>And with this, let’s have a prayer.</p> <p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>	<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>
<p>We have been speaking for the past number of weeks about some of the fruits of Mormonism.</p> <p>Where the Church today tends to ardently portray itself as a bastion of</p>	

<p>wholesome living and good ideals, I would suggest that Mormonism – even today – continues to bear fruit antithetical to God’s will and ways.</p> <p>All of it somehow is tied to the teachings of their founding prophet Joseph Smith.</p>	
<p>Two weeks ago, we discussed the fruit of “deception” Joseph Smith brought to the lives of good people seeking to please God.</p> <p>Last week, we talked about the fruit of “revelation without scriptural substantiation” or how Joseph got people to relying on their untrustworthy feelings to know or discern truth.</p> <p>Tonight, we are going to get a little more hands on.</p>	
<p>If you study Mormonism long enough, you begin to see a very strong “Old Testament” feel to it.</p> <p>In Exodus 21:24, Moses recorded God as saying:</p> <p>“Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.”</p> <p>This was the law.</p> <p>Whether this is acted out in the LDS Church today or not, there remains – in the heart of most faithful believers as a result of doctrine – a semblance of this teaching.</p> <p>And sometime the semblance rises up from beneath the white shirts and knee-</p>	

length dresses, and takes form.

Unlike the Gospel found in the New Testament, Joseph Smith taught that there are some sins that are

“beyond the reach of the atoning blood of Christ.”

And for these sins to even have a chance to be forgiven, the sinner would have to

“have their own blood shed to atone.”

Aside from all sorts of theological implications, this single teaching became the seed for some unconscionable acts and attitudes within Mormonism past . . . and present.

In 2001, Historian D. Michael Quinn labeled the collective result of this teaching which grew like a monster after the death of Joseph Smith, as a “culture of violence.”

I would suggest the culture remains today.

Where Joseph began as a teen who said he saw heavenly beings who delivered gold plates and such, he sort-of snowballed over time into somewhat of a power-hungry despot.

In 1845, after Joseph Smith’s death, LDS apostles issued a proclamation to

“The rulers and People of All Nations.”

Which said, in part, that . . .

"the kingdom of God has come . . . even that kingdom which shall fill the whole earth and shall stand forever."

This proclamation served as nothing less than a "warning to the world" that Mormonism was going to someday take control and the world had better join them.

Apostle Parley P. Pratt invited all the world leaders to join them, and to

"reduce all nations and creeds to one political and religious standard, and thus put an end to Babel forms and names, and to strife and war."

He added that if the leaders of the world did not

" . . . take a lively interest with the Saints of the Most High, and the covenant people of the Lord," that they would become (the Latter-day Saints) most inveterate enemy."

Statements like these, coupled with Joseph Smith's teachings on blood atonement served as dry kindling for a people who understood "eye for an eye," but never embraced, "turn the other cheek."

Along comes Brigham Young – whom the LDS venerate as a prophet, seer, and revelator, whom they have named their University after.

He takes the kindling, wraps it up, douses it with lamp oil, and stands at the

LDS pulpit with teachings (and actions) that stand in DIRECT opposition to Jesus.

Brigham would at ALL COSTS sought to build a modern theocracy, and used Joseph's teachings on "blood atonement" (or what later became known as "holy murder") to control, manipulate, and take the life of ANYONE who threatened his vision.

Quinn wrote this great basin attitude

"encouraged Mormon's to consider it their religious right to kill antagonistic outsiders, common criminals, LDS apostates, and even faithful Mormons who committed sins worthy of death."

However, Young did not rely solely upon the doctrine of blood atonement to control the masses – he actually added a teaching of his own – and called it "The Oath of Vengeance."

After Joseph Smith was killed, Brigham Young ADDED – ADDED an oath to Joseph's temple ceremony (which was supposed to have been given to him by God) on the first anniversary of Joseph's death.

And what was this added covenant about?

Temple attendees would swear to the following:

"You and each of you do covenant and promise that you will pray, and never cease to pray Almighty God to avenge the blood of the prophets UPON THIS

NATION, and that you will teach the same to your children, and your children's children – unto the third and fourth generation."

Then everyone who went inside and heard this would swear to obey it.

Sound like Jesus?
Christianity?

As a means to re-enforce the severity of this oath Brigham Young said:

"There is not a man or woman, who violates the covenants made with their God, that will not be required to pay the debt. The blood of Christ will NEVER wipe that out, your own blood must atone for it."

The LDS prophet said:

"The blood of Christ will never wipe that out . . .?"

Sound Christian?
Would Jesus ever say this?

Can you see what such a teaching could do?

It removes the only spot remover on earth (the blood of Jesus) and it places it squarely in the hands of men!

As a matter-of-fact, Brigham so reinforced the doctrine of blood atonement, that he even put the onus for shedding the blood on others!

In the journal of Discourses vol. 4 pp 219-220) he said:

"Will you love your brothers or sisters likewise, when they have committed a sin that cannot be atoned for without the shedding of their blood? Will you LOVE that man or woman well enough to shed their blood?"

Jesus said to turn the other cheek.
Jesus said to forgive everyone.
God said, "Vengeance is mine."

But Brigham said to living people who trusted their (ahem) prophet:

"Will you LOVE that man or woman well enough to shed their blood!"

This was NOT some rhetorical devise Young used to control the members or scare the enemies – it was a heart-felt practice CARRIED OUT, and ever RE-INACTED in temple rituals up until I stopped attending with my wife!

Historian Wallace Stenger wrote that

"to pretend there were no "holy murders" in Utah and along the trails to California, that there was no "saving of the souls of sinners by the shedding of their blood during the "blood atonement revival of 1856, that there were no mysterious disappearances of apostates and offensive Gentiles, is simply, "bad history."

Historian Juanita Brooks said that "Blood

atonement was

“a literal and terrible reality,” that
“Brigham Young advocated and
preached it without compromise.”

LDS apologist claim that while the
teaching may have been there, the
evidence of it ever occurring is absent.

Not true.

According to Church Historical
Department journals two LDS women
who had been messing around with
soldiers at Camp Floyd were later found
with “throats slit to decapitation” the
improbable sign of an early
intermountain west serial killer, or the
carried-out result of a Mormon covenant
breaker.

Mountain Meadows, which we are going
to cover in depth next year when we
cover LDS history from the death of
Joseph Smith to the present, is almost
irrefutably tied by expert Will Bagley to
the practice and promotion of Brigham
Young’s blood atonement doctrine.

Want more fruit from this poisonous
tree?

Look at the FLDS, who rightfully believe
that in addition to the banning of
polygamy and blacks receiving the
priesthood that the practice of blood
atonement is just another lost truth from
which the present-day Church has
apostasized.

Read up on the history of the LeBaron
family.

Perhaps more frightening is the relatively present-day story of the Lafferty family.

Dan and Ron were faithful LDS brothers who looked into Mormonism teachings and found the present-day church wanting.

Dan influenced his brother Ron that they should get back to the true eternal teachings of Joseph Smith.

Ron's wife didn't agree and she left him.

Dan received a powerful "revelation" which of course was unsubstantiated by the Bible but certainly full of "feeling") that another brother's wife (Brenda) had instigated this rebellion and needed to have her "blood shed."

So on good old Pioneer Day 1984, Ron and Dan forced their way into their brothers home in American Fork and slit the throats of Brenda his wife . . . and their little baby daughter.

On August 17th 1984, The Salt Lake Tribune reported that the "victims throats were slashed in what police said was a ritualistic killing."

From the seed, springs a tree.
From the tree, springs the fruit.
From the fruit, springs a seed.

LDS defenders will respond to this stuff by citing the murders of Christian's over the ages.

But the difference is Jesus NEVER, EVER advocated cutting throats, or shedding the blood of people for atonement of their

sins He couldn't save – But Joseph and Brigham did!

See the difference?
Sound Christian?

Now the LDS will call these things
“abberant” and a-typical of Mormon
people the world over.

And while this may be true in this day
and age, I would strongly suggest that
the fruit, while somewhat dormant,
continues to ripen.

Several months ago we received a call
from an LDS man who said his name was
John from OFallon Illinois.

Frustrated by my responses to him, John
ended the call by speaking his heart. He
said:

“You know Shawn, I wish the Danite’s
were still around.”

I asked him to explain to the audience
what he meant, and he quietly said:

“You know what I mean.”

Fruit from the original seed.
Sound Christian?

We receive emails and letters in the mail
that are constantly expressing their desire
to do “violent things to my person.”
There are blogs and message boards that
challenge my actual right to exist.

But this fruit is not just manifested to
antagonists.

Go watch a “Church-sponsored” men’s sporting event – cultural hall basketball, softball – whatever.

The spirit of Joseph and Brigham remains – alive and well, but I would suggest, in a somewhat dormant state – until . . .

UNTIL Mormonism has reached the long-awaited place where they can actually impose it’s collective will on others.

And then it will.

Let’s go to the phones:

(801) 973-TV20

(801) 973-8820

Emails

[illegible]

	<p>Show 38 Seventeen Points XIX</p> <p>Baptism for the Dead</p> <p>September 9th 2008</p>
<p>Live!</p> <p>From the "<u>Mecca of Mormonism</u>"</p> <p>-SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH-</p> <p>This is Heart of the Matter . . .</p> <p><i>"Where Mormonism Meets Christianity Face to Face!"</i></p>	<p>And I'm Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>If you have family or friends or enemies that should or would like to watch the show but don't receive it, have them go to www.hotm.tv and they can watch "Heart" from anywhere in the world through streaming video!</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Hey, Heart of the Matter can also be heard tonight – right now, in fact, on KUTR AM 820 – "The Truth"</p> <p>This is a new AM radio station here in Utah and let me tell you, they deliver the goods:</p> <p>50000 watts of transmission power Tremendous programming where you actually hear the Word! And now they air Heart of the Matter every Wednesday Night from 8 to 9 pm!</p> <p>KUTR AM 820 – The Truth</p>	
<p>This coming Saturday, I will be at the Lifeway Christian Bookstore on State Street in Murray for a book signing from 11 am to 1 in the afternoon.</p>	

<p>Lifeway is a great Christian bookstore, among others, that serves the Salt Lake Valley.</p> <p>Come on down and say hello – that’s Saturday, September 13th, from 11 to 1 at the Lifeway Christian Bookstore in Murray – right there on State street across from the _____ mall.</p>	
<p>Then, the following Saturday, we are holding our annual outreach event:</p> <p>Burning Heart 08 The Day of Decision</p> <p>At Sugarhouse Park late afternoon till dusk.</p> <p>Let me tell you, we have got some GREAT things planned!</p> <p>First, we’ve got Subway providing boxed meals at a deep discount.</p> <p>We’ll have popcorn, drinks, and snow cones!</p> <p>T-Shirts, books, DVD’s and other products and materials free and for a price (including a new, pre-press book I’ve written on a secular topic).</p> <p>Then . . . then we have the musical guests. Freaking awesome!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Christ EV worship team will be there to lead us toward Him. 2. Michael Davis will be there. 	<p>Now Michael is perhaps one of the best guitarists alive. Seriously. I had the privilege to baptize Michael and his</p>

<p>3. Then we're going to have</p> <hr/> <p>4. Then (strange music guy)</p> <p>5. Then, to top the night off, we're going to be blessed to hear "Adam's Road" all the way from Florida, who will lead us right into the brief evening message by yours truly.</p> <p>We're going to have local churches and their pastors there:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. <p>And after the Day of Decision speech, we're going to have an open water baptism in a heated pool!</p> <p>Grab your inactive LDS family, friends, and neighbors . . .</p> <p>Grab your friends who worry, and wander, and wonder . . .</p> <p>Grab a blanket and . . .</p> <p>And join us at Burning Heart 08 The Day of Decision.</p>	<p>wife Denise and their son Aaron not too long ago in Idaho.</p> <p>Here's a brief clip of his shredding skill.</p> <p>(show clip)</p> <p>Michael will be at Burning Heart to share what God has done in his life through his music.</p>
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<p>Then, the next day, Sunday September 21st, we are launching</p> <p>CAMPUS Christian Assemblies Meeting (to) Prayerfully Understand Scripture.</p> <p>Where?</p> <p>Our morning service will take place at the University of Utah from 9:15 to 10:15 am.</p> <p>Then we are going to hold evening services at Utah State in Logan, Weber State in Ogden, and in the same room at the U of U here in Salt Lake.</p> <p>If you are looking for a place to learn the Word verse by verse from beginning to end, come join us every Sunday at the University of Utah.</p> <p>And remember - we are no longer gathering at the theaters here in downtown Salt Lake City but have moved both morning and evening services to the University of Utah.</p> <p>Go to www.lordsword.org for more information like times and maps.</p>	
Other Topic?	

And with that, let's have a prayer.	PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER
<p>Before we conclude next week with our examination of the LDS concept of the Seventeen Points of the True Church, I was informed that I skipped one – it reads – if you can believe it :</p> <p>The True Church MUST practice baptism of the dead.</p> <p>Does your church practice baptism of the dead? If it doesn't, the Mormons say your church is NOT true.</p> <p>Well what is baptism for the dead?</p> <p>From where did it originate and how is it done today?</p>	
<p>First of all, let me make a few points before we actually discuss this practice the LDS call baptism for the dead.</p> <p>Point One:</p> <p>To embrace the practice as Mormonism presents it is to embrace the false notion that baptism is necessary for salvation.</p> <p>And to embrace the notion that baptism is an absolute demand to be saved is to add to what Jesus did on the cross.</p> <p>Is baptism good and beneficial. Yes – certainly. But so was circumcision. Baptism is a means of identification. It is an outward proclamation made by</p>	

someone who has accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior of their lives.

Built in to the act of baptism for the dead is the man-made idea that everyone MUST be baptized to be acceptable to God, forgetting the premise of Galatians 5:4 that says to those who add to grace that

"Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."

Jesus told the thief on the cross who received Him by faith:

"Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise."

Now this word paradise is not a waiting place where the thief would go in order to wait for a member of the LDS church to vicariously baptism him after 1840, but paradise is a Persian word and is used NOT, according to Robertson, to be a temporary or intermediate state; but the very bliss of heaven itself.

This Persian word was used for an enclosed park or pleasure ground (so Xenophon) and it occurs in two other passages in the N.T. (2Co 12:4; Re 2:7), in both of which the reference is plainly to heaven itself.

The thief on the cross was not baptized.

The thief on the cross went directly to heaven.

Baptism is not required to enter into heaven.

If you want more insight into what baptism is, what it means, and it's biblical applications, go to HOTM.TV and go to the show archives.

Watch the 2006 six show #27 on Baptism then check the information out for yourselves.

Okay . . . another point we must consider relative to this practice of baptism for the dead is the point of how insipid – ignorant, actually – for anyone to take any single biblical verse and build an entire doctrine and practice upon it.

On my LDS mission, I learned that the Amish would not chop wood because in scripture, Jesus said:

"What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

What is unfortunate for the Amish, is they neglected to recall that this passage was contextually speaking of marriage!

In fact, taken as a whole, the verse says:

"Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

But context become unimportant when men have a teaching they want to push on others.

<p>This is the case of baptism for the dead, as proposed by one Joseph Smith, Jr.</p> <p>Contextually, the single biblical reference to baptism for the dead is couched in a magnificent Paulinian teaching on resurrection, and has no other reference in the word – and for good reason.</p> <p>Let's discuss the context of this passage now.</p>	
<p>First Corinthians chapter 15 is the definitive argument for resurrection in scripture.</p> <p>It is presented by Paul and he uses a Greek method, so to speak, to speak to the believers at Corinth who had stopped believing in a literal resurrection.</p> <p>The Greek tactic was called “Ad Hominem” and it did not mean to attack the man as it means today, but it was a method of taking a premise and reducing it down to prove that the premise was non-sensical.</p> <p>Paul reminds the Saints at Corinth that they had the truth preached to them at one time, and that this good news included that 1) Christ died for our sins, that he was buried, and that He rose again on the third day.</p> <p>Paul continues through verse 5 through 11 to rehearse to these misguided believers the many people who witnessed Jesus as a resurrected being.</p>	

Then in verse 12, he states:

1st Corinthians 15:12 ¶ *Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?*

So there is the false teaching that was going on there with the believers at Corinth – that there is no resurrection of the dead.

Got it?

Then he begins to work through the error of their logic backward:

He says:

1st Co 15:13-19 ***But*** *if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:*

(meaning, if there is a universal truth that resurrection is a lie, then Jesus was not resurrected! Then he says)

14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

(in other words, why are you calling yourselves Christians? Because without the resurrection, your faith is ridiculous)

15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up

Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

(Paul here tells them that if there is no resurrection than they are all liars – false witnesses of God!)
(verse 16)

16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

Then, in verse 18, he uses the phrase “fallen asleep.”

“Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.”

(Now this is an important verse relative to our discussion - “they which are fallen asleep.” This phrase mean they who have died as Christians. Now many of those people who had died or fallen asleep as Christians had done so through the stress of persecution and even outright martyrdom – just think of Stephen, whom Paul helped off!)

So Paul continues with his reductive argument (verse 19):

19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

(meaning, it is the resurrection that makes the message, life, teachings,

and hope in Christ lasting! Anyone who overcomes death MUST have done and overcome all He said He would!) Get it?!

Now verse 20 through 28 are like a parenthetical reference. Here Paul reverses from the ad hominem reductive method and builds on what the resurrection of Jesus means relative to Adam, sin, and firstfruits.

THEN . . . we pick his reductive argument against their premise – which is that there is no resurrection – with verse 29 and 30.

And verse 29 in the verse Joseph Smith pulled out and used to justify this time-wasting practice called baptism for the dead.

Prior to reading verse 29, remember all the things Paul said in verses 1-19, and then preface your reading with Paul saying:

Again, you don't believe in the resurrection (now read verse 29) well then

“Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead?”

Now listen! Paul is referring to them which had “fallen asleep” here. Those Christians who had died. He is saying, if they are not going to rise, why do you continue to baptize?

This is part of his reductive ad hom argument!

He is taking their premise, and point by point showing how ignorant the premise is by comparing it with facts.

Understanding the context of this verse – that Paul was speaking of those Christians who had died or passed on, many from persecution, will help with understand the Greek which reads:

(hoi baptizomenoi huper tôn nekrôn).

Now that word “Huper” is the Greek word for the word “for” in

What shall they do which are baptized FOR the dead.

That word huper does not mean for the dead, it means “to take the place” or to “replace” the dead.

In other words, the baptism for the dead Paul is speaking of is in reference to the baptism of new converts who is taking the place or replacing the spot in the body that was vacated by the death of another Christian – probably through persecution!

Why do I say that?

Read the next verse, where Paul adds:

“And why stand we in jeopardy every hour?”

In other words, Paul says,

Look you say there is no resurrection.

If this is the case, you have no reason to hope, we are all made liars, and those believers who have been killed have died in vain.

And then he says:

And yet you keep baptizing people (which replace those who have been killed) to what purpose? So they can be killed too?

Why are we standing in jeopardy every hour of this persecution if none of us are going to rise?

Being a Christian during those years was very dangerous business, so Paul was essentially saying to these guys, "if there is no resurrection, there is absolutely no point at all to bring in new converts – ESPECIALLY THROUGH THE PUBLIC ACT OF BAPTISM – and putting them in the same danger as those who they are replacing that have been killed?

"And why stand we in jeopardy every hour?"

There's no point!

If there is no resurrection, just let everyone die who has called themselves Christian and stop replacing them with new converts which only puts them in Jeopardy of death every hour!

You get it?

<p>It is impossible, when reading the bible in context, to ever – EVER – EVER support the doctrine or practice of taking a live person and baptizing them for a dead one so they can be eligible to enter heaven.</p> <p>By accepting this rudimentary falsehood, faithful members are then lead to believe that the dead must also have other required works done in order to enter heaven.</p> <p>So we first have the research needed to get the names of dead people who have not received the LDS baptism.</p> <p>Then the proxy baptism must be done – and it is usually by teens – in the dead person’s name.</p> <p>Then, if the dead person is male, he must receive the LDS priesthoods – by laying hands on another proxy – both the Aaronic and Melchezidek priesthoods – which are two separate blessings.</p> <p>I would guess that at this point maybe two or three hours of a living persons life has been spent minimum on the dead subject.</p> <p>Then someone must go through what is called the “initiatory” work for the dead subject. Another hour when everything is said and done.</p> <p>Then a person must go through an endowment session – which is another two and a half hours when everything is all said and done.</p>	
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Then the dead subject must go through a sealing of himself to his wife and children with is another hour, when it is all said and done.

And then once all this “work” is completed by some faithful, well-meaning, believing but uninformed member of the Mormon church, the dead person on the “other side” will decide if they want to accept these things or not.

If they do, they get to live at some level in the celestial kingdom.

If they don’t, they do not ever get to live with God.

This insipid practice ties a living, breathing, individual to get a baby sitter, leave their children, and spend at least eight hours of proxy work in the temple to offer salvation to one dead relative, friend, or stranger.

All from one passage totally misinterpreted and completely misapplied.

(beat)

One of the hallmarks of frightening spiritual manipulation are the heavy and relentless demands an institution places on its victims.

Where there is never anytime to rest and reflect outside the institution and its events, there is never any time to question or think.

<p>Worship God.</p> <p>Jesus said,</p> <p><i>Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you <u>rest</u>.</i></p> <p>He bore the cross.</p> <p>He carried all the burden.</p> <p>He – and He alone – is the source of salvation, the source of exaltation, the source of life eternal.</p> <p>Let's go to the phones:</p> <p>(801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p>	
<p>EMAILS</p>	

<p>Don't forget two events coming up!</p> <p>This Saturday, from 11 to 1 pm, a book signing at Lifeway Books on State Street in Murray</p> <p>AND</p> <p>The following Saturday late afternoon to dusk – Burning Heart at Sugarhouse Park in Salt Lake City!</p> <p>Be there!</p> <p>And we'll see you next week here on Heart of the Matter.</p>	

<p>LIVE! From the “Mecca of Mormonism” SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH This is <u>Heart of the Matter</u>! <i>“Where Mormonism Meets Christianity Face to Face.”</i></p>	<p>Show 39 The Fruit of Pride September 16th 2008</p> <p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>.....</p> <p>Streaming Video Announcement HOTM.TV</p> <p>.....</p> <p>AM 820 The Truth! Listen to Heart of the Matter every Tuesday night from 8-9pm</p> <p>(hold up sign) 820 AM The Truth –</p> <p>And excellent station – it’s all I listen to because by listening to it, I learn more and more about the word.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Two announcements relative to our ministry:</p> <p>First . . . this Saturday afternoon . . .</p>	
<p>Burning Heart 08 “The Day of Decision”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SUGARHOUSE PARK Saturday Sept 20th • The Food! Subway Sandwiches at a deep discount – awesome healthy food. 	

<p>Now to offset the healthy stuff, we'll also have snowcones, popcorn, and the like available.</p> <p>Bouncehouses for the kids.</p> <p>Church booths. Products for sale Giveaways</p> <p>Great Music! Two worship bands!</p> <p>Michael Davis guitarist extraordinaire!</p> <p>Adam's Road!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hear the Word • Then bring a towel as we'll end the night with some open water baptisms in heated water! • Invite your friends – especially your inactive or lost LDS neighbors and family • This Saturday, Sugarhouse Park 3pm to 8 – baptisms will begin around 7:30. 	
<p>Then . . . on Sunday, September 21st, Three CAMPUS evening Services (Christian Assemblies Meeting to Prayerfully Understand Scripture) will begin – One at the UofU One at Weber State in Ogden And One at Utah State in Logan</p> <p>All begin at 7pm and end at 8pm</p>	

<p>And of course, our AM services will continue at the UofU here in SLC from 9:15 to 10:15 am.</p> <p>We invite all to attend. Use us as a supplement to your learning the Word of God or as your home Church fellowship. We don't care. We just want to teach the Word of God to anyone who wants to learn more.</p> <p>Go to www.lordsword.org for more information.</p>	
<p>We had a nice book signing at Lifeway Christian Books in Murray last Saturday. It was so nice to meet you all face to face.</p> <p>I Was a Born-Again Mormon is available there at Lifeway Christian books, as well as</p>	<p>UTLM.ORG or in the store itself. Oasis Books in Logan Christian Gift and Bible in Sandy New Life books in Layton Sam Weller's downtown SLC Calvary Chapel Dolly's Books in Park City Gift of Grace Bible in Springville</p> <p>... and at www.bornagainmormon.com.</p> <p>You know, our ministry strives to reach the LDS through whatever means is appropriate.</p> <p>We've learned that sometimes we should employ boldness, sometimes</p>

	<p>we need to us patience, sometimes we will get right in your face.</p> <p>But the core distinctive's of our ministry come from the Word of God and are reflected in I Was a Born-Again Mormon.</p> <p>I know some of you won't believe this, but I am not at odds with Mormon people.</p> <p>They are, in fact, my people.</p> <p>But I am ardently at odds with the principalities of Mormonism. And because of my love for Mormon people – Mormon individuals – I will use any and all honest means and methods to help them see the counterfeit gospel they embrace.</p> <p>Is that not kind to call Mormonism a counterfeit gospel?</p> <p>It is no more unkind than Mormonism telling the world that it is the only true Gospel.</p> <p>Why don't I just leave the LDS Church alone and let them worship how they want?</p> <p>Would the LDS church leave me alone if I started a church and called it the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints?</p> <p>Never.</p> <p>No matter how much you want to hate me and what I do, look in the mirror. You do the same thing.</p>
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	<p>(Except you've . . .) Except you've learned to do it with the aplomb of a corporate attorney . . . with panache, and manners, and suave presentations.</p> <p>I've said this so many times in the past – admit you are not Christian, and I will walk off the air. But as long as you insist on beguiling the world using Jesus as your front man, I will fight . . .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - using your doctrines - using your culture - using your history, and practices, and methods . . . <p>until you fess up and give up and fall to your collective knees to receive the biblical Jesus through faith.</p> <p>And with that, let's have a prayer.</p>
PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER	<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - for our volunteers / viewers - for the state to catch on fire - for those lost and searching - for Mormonism to fall to its doctrinal knees
<p>Years ago while speaking to an audience I was asked:</p> <p>What is the MAIN difference you have observed between Christian people and LDS people.</p> <p>Now, my answer then, and my answer now, may offend some of you. But I don't mean it in the way you may think.</p> <p>"The most apparent character</p>	

<p>differentiation between a faithful Latter-day Saint and a faithful, Bible believing Christian is . . . PRIDE.</p> <p>Now there are always exceptions to every rule. We have all met arrogant, proud, ego-centric Christians and many of us have encountered humble, down to earth, always pointing to God Latter-day Saints.</p> <p>But generally speaking, the biggest difference between faithful LDS and faithful Christians is undoubtedly pride.</p> <p>There are very, very good reasons for this. Tonight, I would like to build a case that LDS pride will continue to dominate the lives and hearts of their faithful until there has been a complete doctrinal overhaul and repentance of the past.</p>	
<p>I suggest to you seven main reasons that the LDS people embody extreme spiritual – if not temporal – attitudes of pride. They include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Their doctrine of a pre-existence. 2. Their genealogical emphasis. 3. Their we are the Only True Church stance. 4. Their culture. 5. Their priesthoods. 6. Their hierarchy of leadership 7. Their doctrines of salvation. <p>Let's briefly examine them.</p>	
<p>First, the LDS doctrine of a pre-existence.</p>	

Unique to Mormonism is the teaching that all the inhabitants of earth lived in a pre-mortal existence, where, based on our valiant behaviors, were placed here on earth.

In Mormonism, this teaching stems from a passage in Joseph's book of Abraham, where he describes Father Abraham, who was one of the most valiant spirits in the pre-mortal world, being chosen there to be a ruler on earth (Abraham 1:5).

Speaking of Adam and Even in the LDS book Gospel Principles, it reads:

(read sample)

Elder Eyring, an LDS apostle and now member of the first presidency of the LDS Church said:

Whether stated plainly in LDS canon or not, Mormon leadership has allowed, condoned, and even promoted the idea That if you are born LDS, you were one of the spirit-worlds most valiant souls.

Anyone who was raised LDS knows this attitude drenches the minds of members.

Interestingly, and as a brief aside, the doctrine of pre-mortal existence is not unique to pagan thought. In fact, it was central to Platonic ideal of forms.

I find it ironic that LDS leadership (like Dallin Oaks) love to state that Christianity was bastardized by Hellenistic influences, when one of

<p>Mormonism's most central beliefs (pre-existence) is straight from Greek philosophy.</p> <p>Now I don't know if Joseph Smith was schooled in Plato, or where he embraced and applied the pagan doctrine of pre-existence, but I want to give you an illustration of its existence.</p> <p>At the Council of Trent in 1546, the Roman Catholic church, partially in response to the Protestant Reformers embracing ONLY the Hebrew canon, accepted most of the apocraphal books included in the Vulgate.</p> <p>These books, while beneficial and informative, contained a number of frankly messed up heresies.</p> <p>In the apocraphal book titled, The Wisdom of Solomon, the author, who pretended to be Solomon himself but was in all probability a Jew writing in Greek, promotes a number of non-biblical pagan teachings, including:</p> <p>The creation of the worlds out of pre-existent matter and the pre-existence of souls.</p> <p>As only Joseph could, he borrowed and embellished these teachings and the LDS church today has allowed its members to use it as the basis for everything from being valiant souls to fictional plays like My turn on Earth and Saturdays Warriors.</p> <p>PRIDE</p>	
<p>Another LDS distinctive that</p>	

<p>contributes to pride is their focus on genealogy.</p> <p>The Bible is clear that genealogies, post the death and resurrection of Jesus, are essentially meaningless, for the sole reason that they separate and promote men and flesh over the adoption of believers by through spiritual rebirth.</p> <p>Mormonism has its own sickening caste system. Last names are vital to this system which must be a stench in the nostrils of God.</p> <p>"Why he's a direct descendant of Brigham Young."</p> <p>So what.</p> <p>But another reason for pride to exists in the rank and file.</p>	
<p>In addition to the idea that Latter-day Saints were valiant in some Greek myth of a pre-existence and that who their great grandfather was determines who they are today, Mormonism insists on claiming that it is "the only true Church on the face of this earth."</p> <p>Therefore, Mormons are privy to something the world is missing.</p> <p>More bricks in the wall called PRIDE.</p> <p>Spencer W. Kimball, late prophet of the LDS church said something I consider horrific relative to the inclusive power of the Church:</p> <p>He said:</p> <p>"You see, it (meaning exaltation) is not</p>	

<p>a matter of righteousness only. That is one of the two important elements, but righteousness alone is not sufficient. There must be both the righteousness AND the ordinances.”</p> <p>Could you get a statement more opposite of the Christian position?</p> <p>To Christians, we have no personal righteousness to offer – all are sinful and come short of the glory of God.</p> <p>Then, as if to add a back-pack of bricks onto these struggling, over-burdened LDS people, Kimball says that this righteousness is not enough. But he doesn’t say they need Jesus!</p> <p>No! He says they need the LDS ordinances – that these are the “most important elements.”</p> <p>Now, if you have received these ordinances from a place you believe in the Only True Church on the face of the earth, AND you think yourself righteous, AND your last name is Hinckley, or Monson, or Romney, AND you were born a member of the true church because you were valiant in the PRE-EXISTENCE, you usually are walking around pretty damn proud – pharisaical proud, I would say.</p> <p>But it doesn’t end here.</p> <p>There’s are huge pride generators to come!</p>	
<p>Let’s look at LDS Culture</p> <p>This is a culture that looks and rewards</p>	

<p>- even hold up - people who are affluent.</p> <p>Because affluence is a sign that you are blessed of God.</p> <p>It is a culture that praises advancements in the world, and includes an "advancement attitude" in their religious culture.</p> <p>Young men "advance" from the office of deacon to teacher, and from being an Aaronic Priesthood holder to a Melchizedek priesthood holder.</p> <p>Men and women move up in position, advancing in authority and in greater light and knowledge.</p> <p>The culture includes a lay clergy where temporal excellence is exalted.</p> <p>Bigger, grander, larger, funner become the operative words for success within the Church - all kindling for more pride.</p> <p>I remember in my years searching for Jesus that I would read the Bible and what Jesus was about, then I would look around me at the Mormon experience and say, What the?!</p> <p>I mean, His teachings relative to LDS culture is absolutely comical.</p>	
<p>Then there are those priesthood advancements.</p> <p>Argue all you want, a forty-year old Elder is viewed and treated much differently than a forty-year old high</p>	

<p>priest.</p> <p>PRIDE.</p> <p>And then there's the calling game.</p> <p>I thoroughly enjoy being a fly on the wall on my five 200 plus flights over the past two years.</p> <p>The women are particularly onerous.</p> <p>"Well, Judy, I haven't seen you in so long. How's Jerry?"</p> <p>"Oh, he is really worn out. He was called to the Bishopric last year and it is such a burden."</p> <p>"Oh, I understand," says Susan, "Thomas was made a Stake President . . .</p> <p>"Really?"</p> <p>"Yes, and we just have such a heart for the Bishops of the stake . . . Jerry is a Bishop, right?"</p> <p>"First counselor?"</p> <p>"Oh . . ."</p> <p>PRIDE.</p>	
<p>But the final element contributes more to the existence of LDS pride than all the rest combined – their doctrines of salvation, or, the LDS soteriology.</p> <p>If this point alone were changed, everything else distinct in Mormonism</p>	

that generates pride would dissolve.

Because nothing will create more Pride in the heart of men and women than the false idea that their own righteousness, works, worthiness, and efforts contribute in ANY way to their salvation.

This was one of the most pressing issues of the Pharisees! They thought that they – that their righteousness, and genealogy, and positions of leadership – made them superior before men and God.

John the Baptist told them straight up that God could make the rocks His children.

Jesus repeatedly pointed out that they were so guilty there was no hope for them – but Him.

You see, anytime you add to the grace of God it is no longer grace.

Paul wrote emphatically in Romans 11:6

And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

You can't mix the two.

It's like my saying that I have a gift for you – and then asking for you to pay for it.

We are either saved by grace alone, or we are saved by something else that is not grace at all.

Paul gave a marvelous example of why grace is grace and not tied to anything else when he said in Romans 4:4:

“Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.”

What this means is that if we work, we are owed something – we place someone in our debt.

So Paul said, those who work their reward is NOT received by grace, but it is received because it is owed.

Jesus came and paid the debt in full. We all have the opportunity to receive His offering and through our faith we are saved – given life – eternal life by grace, not through being owed, not by debt or works.

Now here’s the clincher – once anyone has received the free gift of salvation offered through the blood of Jesus – they are then enabled by God, empowered by His Holy Spirit, fortified by His Word unto works.

But not before.

Because the LDS believe that they not only HAVE to do their part to receive salvation, to work in order to be worthy of their salvation, to do LDS ordinances to be acceptable before God, they are directly saying that

<p>THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN SALVATION.</p> <p>Once this completely errant belief enters the picture, all sorts of pride issues follow in right behind.</p> <p>So in summary, I suggest that at the core of all LDS Pride is the false doctrine of Salvation.</p> <p>When LDS people understand that the full finished work of Jesus on the cross is all that is needed to be fully and completely acceptable before God, the pride which stems from</p> <p>Pre-existent valiance Genealogy Being the Only True Church Dressing right, being successful Priesthoods and positions of leadership</p> <p>Will all melt away, and the Latter-day Saints I love will worship Jesus – and Jesus alone – in their meetings across the world.</p>	
<p>EMAILS</p>	

ONE MINUTE LEFT	
<p>Hey, remember, this Saturday at Sugarhouse Park, Burning Heart 08 from 3-8pm.</p> <p>In closing, I have LDS people say to me all the time "Come back, Shawn. Come back to the Church."</p> <p>Why would I leave a relationship with the Lord God of Heaven and earth, creator of all things who lives in me, guides me, improves me, to go back – BACK –to a religion that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has problems with a history of polygamy, teen wives, and polyandry . . . • Has problems with a history with black people . . . • Has problems with a history of blood atonement and violence . . • Has problems with DNA . . . • Has problems with The Book of Mormon . . . • Has problems with The Book of Abraham . . . • Has problems with the First Vision . . . • Has problems with doctrine . . . and the Bible, and truth, and liberty in Christ . . . • Has problems with pride . . . <p>(beat)</p> <p>Go to the Lord – He's got NO problems at all. He's calling to you – receive Him.</p> <p>We'll see you next week here on Heart of the Matter.</p>	

<p>LIVE! From the “Mecca of Mormonism” SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH This is <u>Heart of the Matter</u>! <i>“Where Mormonism Meets Christianity Face to Face.”</i></p>	<p><i>Show 40 The Three Big Questions September 23rd 2008</i></p> <p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>.....</p> <p>Streaming Video Announcement HOTM.TV</p> <p>.....</p> <p>AM 820 The Truth! Listen to Heart of the Matter every Tuesday night from 8-9pm</p> <p>(hold up sign) 820 AM The Truth –</p> <p>Got Truth? Go to 820 AM KUTR The Truth</p> <p><i>Fantastic programming for Christians seeking to know the Word, and seekers seeking to know the Lord.</i></p>	
<p>Last Saturday afternoon we held our annual outreach – Burning Heart 08.</p> <p>Throughout the day we have well over 600 people show up.</p> <p>We were blessed by testimonies, fantastic music, tremendous food and fellowship, and a gathering of well over 600 people who came and went throughout the day.</p> <p>In the evening, I had the absolute blessing of baptizing thirteen people</p>	

<p>into the body of Christ – including an entire family of seven.</p> <p>The Lord blessed us with His spirit which brought love, peace, unity, and fellowship to all that were there.</p> <p>We THANK you for coming.</p> <p>For chancing the weather which turned out to bless us, and we invite you to all join us next year.</p>	
<p>Alright, we are now planted and established on three college campuses on Sundays.</p> <p>Get your pen and paper – here we go</p> <p>Sunday Mornings from 9:15 to 10:15 we're at</p> <p><u>The University of Utah (in the)</u></p> <p>Web Building (which is the Warnock Building) room 1230 72 Central Campus Drive</p> <p>Then, Sunday evenings, we're at again at</p> <p>The University of Utah (in the same room)</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Weber State (in the) Shepherd Union Building Room 331 On Harrison Blvd.</p> <p>AND</p>	

<p>Utah State University (in the) Nutrition and Science Building Room 202 (it's the place where they sell their ice cream on campus) 725 North and 1200 East</p> <p>Got all that?</p> <p>Go to www.lordsword.org</p> <p>Hey . . . just come and see. All are welcome.</p>	
<p>We want to thank all of you for your support – which comes to us in a number of very meaningful ways.</p> <p>We appreciate your prayers. There is nothing MORE important to our ministry than your prayers.</p> <p>We thank you for your time to volunteer to share our ministry with your neighbors, family and friends - for telling people about Heart of the Matter - for volunteering your precious time to help us out.</p> <p>And we thank those of you who have been led by God to support us financially.</p> <p>All of these avenues of support mean more to us than you will ever know . . . at least here on earth.</p> <p>May the Lord bless you as you follow His leading in your lives.</p>	
<p>JUST A LITTLE FYI – We are really behind on responding to your emails.</p>	

<p>Please forgive us. We'll get back to you within the next week.</p>	
<p>Alright, before we get to the message tonight, let me address something here on the air.</p> <p>While we seek to share and teach Jesus with all peoples, it is our primary mission and ministry to reach out to the LDS with the biblical gospel of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>We seek to have all Latter-day Saints experience spiritual rebirth and to establish a relationship with Jesus which transcends religious allegiance.</p> <p>This being the case, we are NOT here to give the LDS members equal time in an effort to combat us, argue, or muddy the waters of the truth – <u>unless</u> – they are official representatives of the Church.</p> <p>Now critics ask why we will only have official representatives on the show.</p> <p>It's not because official representatives are the only members who know Mormon doctrine and history – it's because only official representatives of the Church are under the obligation to speak the truth and reality of Mormonism – which is probably why they won't come on the air.</p> <p>Where an official representative must respond with Mormon truth, non-official LDS members can – and usually will – say whatever is necessary – to convince others about Mormonism</p>	

being true.

Our position is irritating to certain small but maniacal group of LDS people who have somehow decided that it is their job to defend the church.

These guys remind me of these rabid star-trek fans that were known as "Trekkies."

Make no mind that Star Trek was pure fantasy, the Trekkies insisted on spending all their free time living for and defending it as though it was a reality.

Even William Shatner told them to "get a life."

Well to these types we give NO voice.

Why?

First, they can and will say what they want, twist what they want, and present what they want as truth – especially when they are cornered – in order to defend the kingdom of Joseph.

I don't mind people believing things different than me, but I do mind twistianity and deception.

Secondly, let's say, for example, that our ministry focused on helping unwed pregnant girls refuse abortion and have their child.

And let's say we wanted to give them hope, and to reassure them, and to promote the concept that having the child would bless them in the long run.

<p>Wouldn't it be counter-intuitive for us to allow people to call in and try their best to influence these same girls to abort their babies?</p> <p>Yes, it would.</p> <p>This is the thinking of the self-appointed "Mekkie" or Mormon Trekkies. Somehow they think it is their right to call in on our show and muddy the waters with their dementia.</p> <p>We'll I've got news for you – we don't care who you think you or what insights you think you possess on Mormonism, from any angle relative to the Bible – it is another gospel and it is false.</p> <p>Now if you are a searching Latter-day Saint, or if you have a legitimate question – even as a Mormon believer – we welcome your calls and emails and comments.</p> <p>But if you are a Mekkie, don't call us. Your own Church leaders won't even give you the time of day. And neither will we.</p>	
<p>And with that, let's open with prayer.</p>	<p>PRAYER</p>
<p>Years ago, when I went door to door through Pennsylvania representing Mormonism, I would have a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flip chart in hand • often asked THREE questions so we could tell people our answers - 	

Where did I come from?
Why am I here?
Where am I going?

Now there are all kinds of myths and fables and stories told over the ages as a means to answer these three questions.

Science fiction writer L Ron Hubbard provided his fables – and people who call themselves “Scientologists” accept them.

Mary Baker Eddie had her version and people today called Christian Scientists accept her answers.

If you come up with a story and press them strongly enough and long enough on unsuspecting people, you can get a following.

As an LDS missionary, I presented searching people with answers that came from the mind of one man – Joseph Smith.

TONIGHT I want to re-address and re-answer those very questions . . . but instead with what the Bible has to say . . . or, what God says . . . how HE answers.

First, the question

WHERE DID I COME FROM?

Now Joseph Smith said all of us have always existed. Before coming to earth we were spirit matter (which even God couldn’t create) living in a pre-mortal existent state.

This fantasy - this other gospel - is truly at the core of Mormon teachings today.

I would suggest that more is said, taught, described, and referred to in Mormon meeting houses the world over about this "pre-mortal existence" story than stories and teachings about Jesus.

Well, where did we come from?

The first four words in the Book of Genesis give each and every one of us a definitive summation of an answer:

"In the beginning, God."

Not in the beginning "we," but in the beginning God.

"In the beginning God created THE HEAVEN and the EARTH."

Think about this. He created the heaven (all things above us) and the earth (all things beneath).

He created ALL THINGS?

Where Genesis 1:1 says God created the heavens and the earth, John 1:1 (and speaking of JESUS) says:

"All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made."

ALL THINGS – made by God – who John says was Jesus.

(beat)

From the macro level of the universe to
the micro level of the cell!

All things.

The Heavens – trillions upon trillions
upon trillions of light years in every
direction - and expanding.

Galaxies without number, holding stars
and planets without number, holding
Solar systems without number.

More than the sands of the sea . . . our
God created!

Then within the heavens, concourses of
angels, or different ranks, and orders,
and power.

And then within this unfathomably vast
universe of universes, Jesus created
earth.

With an atmosphere, and mountains,
deserts, land, sea, sky, clouds

Sequoias, pines, oaks, palms

whales, gorillas, giraffes, elk, lions, dogs . . .
cats . . . mice . . . teetsie flies . . . mites . . .

Cells, with more complexity than any man-
made industrial complex . . atoms . . .
quarks . . . (BEAT)

A planet so vast, complex, and
incomprehensible, He created . . . in the
beginning.

Then, God decided to create a being that

was different from all the other creatures on earth - because this creature was in His own image -

three parts in one.

This being could reason, worship, make choices based on a higher powers influence.

This being could enjoy, and explore, and relate to God its creator.

And God created this being to enjoy the earth He made and so this being would have fellowship with him.

The first of these beings was called Adam. The second, which God took from Adam, was called Eve.

"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

This is where you and I came from . . .

Created by God from the dust of the ground and made alive by the **breath of God.**

Genesis does not say:

"And God took the pre-existent spirit of Adam and injected it into the body he created for him out of eternally existing matter."

Once God breathed into the nostrils of the first Man Adam and made him a living soul, this breath of God was

<p>passed down to each of us pro-creatively and through each generation.</p>	
<p>3. So, “<i>Why are we here?</i>”</p> <p>There are actually two parts to this question.</p> <p>Why were we initially here, and why are we here now.</p> <p>Initially, we were created to enjoy the blessed earth God had made and to have fellowship with Him.</p> <p>God is the God of the living, not the God of the dead. Living things are constructed, thriving, full of light and dying things decay.</p> <p>God created Man perfect, and in this state, could have fellowship with Him.</p> <p>And told these first souls what to do and what not to do. But being God – and this is so important – He gives all of us complete and total free will.</p> <p>If He didn’t He would not be a good God for us to love and have fellowship with, but would be a despotic God, a demon, and horrid child who created clay figures then forced them to act.</p> <p>But this is not God.</p> <p>He gives total liberty to all His earthly creations and His heavenly creations.</p> <p>Now one of those heavenly creations – because of His beauty and pride and desire to become like God - chose to</p>	

rebel against Him.

And this angel was cast out of heaven with one third of the heavenly hosts who seemed to have sided with him.

And our forefather Adam, when tempted by the fallen angel to rebellion, chose to go against God's do's and don't and corrupted God's creations, which threw our home and our relationship with God into rebellion, introducing chaos, disease, decay, and sin to our world – things which are not of a God of the living.

This is where every one of us find ourselves today – inheritors of the defiled spirit God breathed into our Father Adam and living in a fallen world!

Therefore WHY we are here now has a very different answer than why we were initially created to be here.

Why we are here NOW has a hundred billion different answers . . . all depending on . . . (beat) . . . you.

In the least, God has given you life which we spend in this fallen and decaying circumstance.

Some of life is good, some is bad, but we all have the choice to do with it as we so choose.

So while we are here to enjoy life, and live according to how God intended us to live, the most important and pivotal issue relative to our existence is to get ourselves back to the state God wanted

us to be in in the first place – as His Children and in a relationship with Him.

THIS IS WHY WE ARE HERE.

Now the LDS, have a very different picture of “Why we are here.”

It was their version of “Why were here” – more specifically, their explanation of the Fall and God’s appreciation of it - that got me wondering about Mormonism’s gospel.

You see, I got to the point in my life where I wanted nothing to do with a God who sent me to live in a place where people – including children - are raped, murdered, imprisoned, and where most of the world lies in starvation and desperation.

I could not reconcile a belief in a God like this or His plan. What helped me understand and ultimately receive the True and Living God was to recognize that God is NOT the author of this fallen world or the things within it.

He does not want his creations to suffer.

He does not like death, disease, decay.

How can anyone believe in a God who says:

“There, there little one, being dragged behind that car because of your color is character-building moment or a test to see if you really love me?”

Not me.

But this is the God the LDS embrace.

Listen to what this LDS Sunday School Lesson book teaches regarding the Fall.

(Read text)

In other words, Adam and Eve were told by God NOT to eat of the fruit and they did.

To Christians, this is called Sin.

To the LDS, it is called courageous.

There are several ramifications of this non-biblical stance.

First, it makes the Fall the will of God, which makes all the sin and decay that has resulted in the Fall His will too.

I can worship a God who, because He allows Man to choose, allows things to go very badly as a result. I cannot worship a God who sends some of His spirit children to an earth that is worse than any nightmare imaginable because they need to feel pain, suffering and death.

Secondly, the LDS version of the Fall places pain, solution, and recovery from its effects squarely upon the shoulders of each individual.

To the Christian, the recovery and solution was placed on Jesus, through whom we find our only solace, comfort and peace.

<p>If the Fall was planned and good, like the LDS suggest, then we are all down here in one giant competition to prove our holiness and worthiness.</p> <p>But if the Fall was evil and not required, we are all here under the burden of sin, but have a redeemer upon which we can look for survival.</p> <p>Get it?</p>	
<p>Which brings us to the final question: Where are we going after this life?</p> <p>Life is interesting because it seems like we are here for a very long time. At the same time, life slips through our hands like water, and before we know it, we are old, then dead, which is the result of living in a decayed and dying world.</p> <p>And we disappear – forever – from this mortal plane.</p> <p>Billions upon billions of God’s creations have simply disappeared.</p> <p>Poof. Gone.</p> <p>Our bodies reaping the harvest of living in a fallen, sinful place.</p> <p>And remember the “breath that God breathed into us through Father Adam?</p> <p>Well that breath – that spirit – just like our bodies – has been corrupted and decayed through exposure to the</p>	

conditions of this world.

When we die, this spirit should return to God who gave it. But guess what?

If the spirit which was corrupted from birth is not cleaned up IT CANNOT return to God the grand and holy creative fire of all things, but will instead go to a place that God created for those angels who rebelled against Him in heaven.

The Hebrews called this place Sheol and Tophit; Jesus called it Gehenna.

Scripture says it is eternal.

Well, if we are born with corrupted spirits into a corrupted world and we leave in the same manner in which we came, we are going to join those filthy spirits in the place created for them before the world was.

There is nothing we can do to escape hell. Nothing.

No good works. No life well lived. No good or generous heart.

Whether it's a life of sin or a little teaspoon of sin, all of it will banish us from God's presence and place our souls in hell forever.

Now some people say that this isn't fair!

"Why would God create me," they say, "so I can die and live eternally in hell? This doesn't seem like a good and loving and fair God, does it?"

The answer would be “no, it doesn’t”
if our creator was indifferent to us,
uncaring, unloving – like the king of this
fallen world.

But our God is not such an uncaring
despotic being.

He does not want any of us to suffer
this. So He sent His only Son - God in
the flesh, the creator of all things - to
suffer for all the conditions and sins of
this Fallen world.

He took on the burden, the sin, and all
we have to do to be saved from it is
believe – have faith – in the Lord named
Yeshua – Joshua- Iesuos – Jesus.

God did not say you are going to a
certain kingdom if you are an
unforgiven liar or adulterer or thief – He
said you are going to hell.

God didn’t say to live with Him you
have to do temple endowments, and
certain ordinances, and join this
institution or that – He said you have to
believe in your heart and confess with
your mouth that Jesus is Lord – and you
will be saved!

Where did you come from?

FROM the dust given the breath of life
from God.

Why are you here? To live life more
abundantly through Jesus Christ.

Where are you going?

<p>To heaven if you have received Him in faith, and to hell if you have not.</p> <p>Let's open the phones:</p> <p>(801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p> <p>EMAILS</p>	
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<p>LIVE! From the “Mecca of Mormonism” SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH This is <u>Heart of the Matter</u>! <i>“Where Mormonism Meets Christianity Face to Face.”</i></p>	<p>Show 41 No Jesus, Know Hell September 30th 2008</p> <p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>Streaming Video Announcement HOTM.TV</p> <p>.....</p> <p>AM 820 The Truth! Listen to Heart of the Matter every Tuesday night from 8-9pm</p> <p>(hold up sign) 820 AM The Truth –</p> <p>Got Truth? Go to 820 AM KUTR The Truth</p> <p><i>Really have great programming for Christians seeking to know the Word, and for seekers seeking to know the Lord.</i></p>	
<p>Christian Assemblies Meeting to Prayerfully Understand Scripture - CAMPUS</p> <p>Is now underway somewhere near your home (if you live in the SLC area or north).</p>	<p>Join us Sunday Mornings at the University of Utah from 9:15 to 10:15 am.</p> <p>Then, we offer three simultaneous services every Sunday night:</p> <p>All from 7pm to 8 pm</p>

	<p>All on University Campuses</p> <p>The UofU at the Web building</p> <p>Weber State at the</p> <p>And at Utah State at the Nutrition and Science Building (or Aggie Ice Cream Building) at 725 North 12000 East room 202.</p> <p>Use us as a supplement to your regular church attendance OR as your own church if you are looking for one.</p> <p>We go verse by verse through the Bible and we are just going to begin the Passion week of the Lord in Matthew.</p> <p>Just come on over and see.</p> <p>(Oh, and relax. You can come if you are LDS, you can bring your quads, just come and see.)</p>
PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER	PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER
<p>I am fairly certain that tonight's show will ruffle the feathers of my Christian brothers and sisters more than any other show we have done.</p> <p>In the quest for truth and resolution, it is vital that the sword we wield is no respecter of persons and cuts both ways.</p> <p>The importance of this topic – and how it relates to the LDS – will be apparent in a minute.</p> <p>It's important to recall Joseph Smith was not raised by parents who had</p>	

little interest in religion.

From what I can tell, they were passionate on the subject, with his mother Lucy Mack Smith bordering, at times, on appearing fanatic and his father, Joseph Smith Senior, a maverick seeker of spiritual – if not religious - truth.

The religious environment to which Joseph Jr. was exposed early and frequently in his life also contributed to his religious make-up – which included prejudices and disappointments which came directly from certain *errant* Christian beliefs which were popular then – and even today.

I suggest that it is quite probable that Joseph Smith Jr. created a number of non-biblical doctrines in direct response to the fanatical, dogmatic, errant teachings that were passed along to him by many of the so-called Christians of his day.

Obviously, I am not to saying ALL Christians embraced or promoted such false doctrine – in fact, it was probably very much like today where just a few wackos distort Jesus to the rest of the world - and from the history and retelling of Joseph Smith Jr. life, we know some did. Including – and especially – some clergy.

One of these teachings was that if a person was not baptized (even by the right denomination) they were going to hell.

This is as false today it was false then.

(HISTORY)

When Joseph was just seventeen years old, two months after he was supposedly to have first gone to the hill Cumorah, his older brother Alvin died unexpectedly.

Now historical records show that Alvin became a sort-of surrogate father in the Smith home as Joseph Sr. was a tad bit unreliable.

Alvin tended to a family store they once operated, used a seer stone to search for buried treasure, and was one of the most excited in the family about the tale of there being gold plates.

In fact, as it is recorded in Manuscript History of Joseph Smith, Alvin's presence was even required of the Lord at the hill Cumorah in order to obtain the plates.

But then he died of a stomach ailment and all of this was now going to change.

Joseph thought very highly of his older brother, and wrote of him:

"He was the oldest member of my father's family. He lived without spot from the time he was a child. From the time of his birth he never knew mirth. He was candid and sober and never knew play. He minded his mother and father in toiling all day. He was one of the soberest men and when he died,

and angel of the Lord visited him in his last moments.”

I get the sense that Joseph Jr., while being well aware of his own propensities toward fantasy and tomfoolery, respected his older brother immensely. and his death served as a tremendous and life-numbing blow to the Smith family.

So this is the settling.

Then guess who shows up on the scene shortly after Alvin’s passing? Some compassionless, dogmatic preacher who tells Joseph’s mother that Alvin went to hell because he hadn’t received the proper baptism!

Sometimes I am just floored by the fact that some people think they are in a position to speak for God.

Naturally, Joseph, who was not about to let such an insensitive fool ruin his mothers peace, later produced a doctrine and practice that would solve such painful issues. This doctrine was the vicarious baptism for the dead.

In my estimation, short-sighted as it may be, Joseph loved men – especially his family - more than He loved God Himself, and he had the audacity to say almost anything if it would grant them some semblance of peace and security in this life.

This made him a hero in these wanting peoples eyes; a savior if you will.

The other foolish dogmatic position many Christians maintained then (and still do today) was the totally illogical – and I would say absolutely unbiblical – belief that the people who have never heard the name Jesus or Christ or have had the chance to hear His gospel – including savages and children – go straight to hell at death.

I am going to spend the rest of my time tonight refuting this insipid teaching because I believe that as a response to it, Joseph (once again) introduced more non-biblical fail-safe teaching straight from his imagination – more vicarious temple rituals for the departed.

Now before you decide that I'm a heretic, hear me out –

- I am not a universalist by any stretch of the imagination. I accept hell as a literal place and I accept that many will go there.
- I believe hell is eternal, burning, and a place of everlasting torment. And I would never, ever suggest that there is any way anyone can enter heaven outside of or in addition to faith in Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ alone.
- But I would *without pause* deny the non-biblical heresy that God creates certain people specifically for hell or that there have been, are, or will be, people – including children and

<p>savages - who have never heard of Jesus and/or His gospel, that God will thrust into hell.</p> <p>(beat)</p> <p>(Turn to the board)</p> <p>Now I am going to list on the board behind me the biblical arguments that support the notion that anyone and everyone who dies without every hearing the name Jesus goes to hell.</p> <p>Then, on the other side of the scale, I am going to present why I believe the Bible refutes such a position contextually.</p> <p>Then you can decide for yourselves.</p> <p><u>Unaware of Jesus in this life? = Hell</u></p> <p>1. God is Just, and all of us justly deserve hell as all of us have sinned against Him.</p>	<p><u>Biblical Factors that suggest otherwise</u></p> <p>1. God is merciful too. So while all might deserve hell according to our universal sinful condition, God is ALSO merciful, and seeks our good.</p> <p>In Jeremiah 29:11 ... God said:</p> <p><i>“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”</i></p>
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<p>2. Heb 9:27 “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”</p>	<p>He also said through Paul in 1st Timothy 2:3</p> <p><i>“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”</i></p> <p>2. So true. And a just and merciful God, acting within the propitiation of the shed blood of Jesus Christ, will judge all men and women justly, mercifully, and in accordance to their response to what was given and received!</p> <p>If I count correctly, there are seven levels of knowledge whereby God reveals Himself and His Law to us.</p> <p>The <u>first way</u> is He is written on nature.</p> <p>Psalms 19:1 says:</p> <p><i>The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.</i></p> <p>The savage, untaught and unapproached for ages has witnessed God above and around Him, and through resignation to this witness, conforms himself to a greater, higher</p>
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	<p>power.</p> <p>The <u>second way</u> God reveals Himself to us is He has written Himself on our consciences.</p> <p>Break the word “conscience” down – con means “with” and science means “knowledge.”</p> <p>Each and everyone of us has some modicum of conscience with which we operate in life.</p> <p>Most of us know when we sin – though we will bury and rationalize this knowledge as best we can.</p> <p>If we sin and don’t recognize it as such, this places us (again) squarely on earth as sinful creators, doesn’t it?</p> <p>Romans 2:15 says:</p> <p><i>“Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another.</i> ”</p> <p>The <u>third way</u> God has revealed Himself and His Law is He wrote them in stone!</p> <p>Exodus 24:12 reminds us of His ways, and as God so moves, even more specifically.</p> <p>Now we are starting to move toward a</p>
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	<p>justification for people going straight to hell.</p> <p>But in ways one and two there is only acquiescence to a higher invisible God – and acknowledgement without specific knowledge.</p> <p>But this third way is ten specific commandments from a specific God.</p> <p>We used to hear and read these commandments even in our schools. But it is another way all of us are somehow aware of Him and His ways – and another way to convict and convince us that we need a savior.</p> <p>The <u>fourth way</u> God reveals Himself – and this is very specific – is through His Word – the Bible.</p> <p>This is His manual. Many, many people open it and have their minds and eyes see what their heart has always known!</p> <p>Hebrews 4:12 reads:</p> <p><i>For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.</i></p> <p>But God gives His Word not only to convict, but also to support</p> <p>Romans 15:4 <i>For whatsoever things</i></p>
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were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Now we are really getting into some hell business.

The **fifth way** God has given us His divine Law was through the incarnation of His Son!

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

The author and FINISHER of our faith!
Deny Him, reject Him, refuse Him – Hell.

Period.

The **sixth way** God reveals Himself is through the Law that was written on our hearts.

You see, when we accept Jesus as our Savior, the law written on stone tablets somehow gets transferred, clarified, and expanded – into every believers heart.

God promised in Zechariah and reiterated in Hebrews 8:10

Hebrew 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of

	<p><i>Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people.</i></p> <p>The <u>final or seventh way</u> God reveals Himself is through the outward lives of believers!</p> <p>2nd Corinthians 3:2-3 says:</p> <p><i>"Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart."</i></p> <p><i>(beat)</i></p> <p>Do I believe in hell for people who turn from the evidences presented to them in all seven of God's revelations –</p> <p>Nature? Conscience? Tablets of Stone? Scripture? Jesus Himself? Personal witness? Personal witnesses?</p> <p>Absolutely. Without Question. This is why we preach and teach and reach to all who will hear.</p> <p>But do I believe in hell for people</p>
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<p>3. There is no name under heaven whereby men (and women) can be saved.</p> <p><i>Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.</i></p>	<p>who <u>HAVE</u> responded to nature, their conscience, the tablets of stone and or scripture if they have had them who have never heard the name Jesus?</p> <p>Never!</p> <p>Such a belief would NEVER match with God's mercy OR the avenues He has provided to those who have not heard of His beautiful name.</p> <p>Which leads us to a proof-text some use to say otherwise:</p> <p>Again, what Christian could ever disagree? But where does it say in the Bible that this salvation – this grace – cannot be applied to them who believed according to what they have been given?</p> <p>Nowhere!</p> <p>We know from scripture that every knee shall bow, but what says the verse?</p> <p><i>“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the</i></p>
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	<p><i>earth."</i> Phillipians 2:10</p> <p>Now, some will maintain, that the actual Anglican name Jesus must be spoken and confessed with the human mouth while in the body in order for it to save each individual human spirit.</p> <p>What about the Hispanics who pronounce the word, Heyseus?</p> <p>Does this work?</p> <p>Now Jesus is not even the Lord's name, you see. I love the name because of what it conveys and means, but His name was Yeshua, Joshua, which because Iesous in the Greek, which became Jesus in the English.</p> <p>Do you see the trouble with making this teaching a sticking point?</p> <p>God is SO MUCH BIGGER THAN THIS.</p> <p>You know, when I think of or try and relate to Jesus in His flesh – when I seek to understand Him and love Him as a guy with a mole on his right foot, and a certain gait, and a specific way he said certain words, I cannot relate to Him at all.</p> <p>The ontological Jesus remains fairly unknown to me.</p> <p>But where I will literally fall down and worship at the sound of His name – angelicalized or not – is when I think of who He is, His spirit, His heavenly identity – as God.</p>
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	<p>If Jesus was NOT GOD, then all who resonate to nature and conscience who have never heard His name would go to hell OR a system in the after life would need to be installed so they could learn His name, right?</p> <p>But if Jesus was GOD, then the being the savage is relating to in nature and conscience is still Jesus, and there is no need for some after-life school.</p> <p>Get it?</p> <p>Joseph Smith agreed with the false notion that people had to know the name of Jesus itself (as well as the Mormon doctrines) to go to heaven and too smart to embrace the illogical notion that if even the savages didn't they would burn in hell, he established an after-death system where they would get the "chance" to hear and learn of His name (and of the LDS church.</p> <p>This system might seem fair and the product of an equitable and merciful God – if it were true and not wholly illogical on so many grounds we can't address them now.</p> <p>But know this:</p> <p>The Bible is clear that this life is the time appropriated for us to meet and accept God, and He has provided a number of ways for this to occur.</p> <p>Those who do – with what they have been given – are present with the Lord by the grace of God.</p>
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<p>Finally, most people on this side of the scales ardently stick to the verse that says:</p> <p>4. Must believe in our heart and confess with our mouth to be saved.</p> <p>They know this from Romans 10:9</p> <p><i>“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”</i></p>	<p>Those who do not, go to hell.</p> <p>Again, so true.</p> <p>But read this verse carefully.</p> <p>How does a loving and merciful God in whom we are to trust expect someone who has never heard of the Lord Jesus to believe in Him or confess Him?</p> <p>He doesn't.</p> <p>But when the savage or heathen confesses God due to his or her conscience or experience with nature, Jesus is confessed.</p> <p>I want to conclude with an interesting passage in 1st Timothy 4:10.</p> <p>Here Paul writes:</p> <p><i>For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in</i></p>
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	<p><i>the living God, who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe.</i></p> <p>I am uncertain of what this really means, but I do believe Paul clearly states that God, the Savior of ALL Men, ESPECIALLY saves them that believe.</p> <p>To me, this verse, and others, give room for the horrific teaching that all go to hell – children, savages, heathens – who die without knowing the name of Jesus.</p> <p>Let's go to the Phones:</p> <p>(801) 973-8820 (801) 973-TV20</p>
EMAILS	

CONCLUSION	

<p>LIVE! From the “Mecca of Mormonism” SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH This is <u>Heart of the Matter</u>! <i>“Where Mormonism Meets Christianity Face to Face.”</i></p>	<p><i>Show 42 Preface to the 10/08 General Conference October 7th 2008</i></p> <p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>Streaming Video Announcement HOTM.TV</p> <p>.....</p> <p>AM 820 The Truth! Listen to Heart of the Matter every Tuesday night from 8-9pm</p> <p>(hold up sign) 820 AM The Truth –</p> <p>Got Truth? Go to 820 AM KUTR The Truth</p> <p><i>Really have great programming for Christians seeking to know the Word, and for seekers seeking to know the Lord.</i></p>	
<p>Christian Assemblies Meeting to Prayerfully Understand Scripture – C*A*M*P*U*S</p> <p>At the University of Utah Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:15 And Sunday evenings from 7-8pm</p> <p>Then at Weber state in Ogden and Utah State in Logan Sunday Evenings also from 7-8pm.</p> <p>Come join us.</p> <p>We pray together, we worship the Lord, and we study the Word.</p>	

<p>EVERYONE IS WELCOME!</p> <p>What else are you doing? Huh? Why not come and learn about the Bible.</p> <p>Go to www.lordsword.org for addresses and information on service locations and times.</p>	
<p>“I Was a Born-Again Mormon” Moving Toward Christian Authenticity</p>	<p>Available at . . .</p> <p>UTLM.ORG or in the store itself. Oasis Books in Logan Christian Gift and Bible in Sandy New Life books in Layton Sam Weller’s downtown SLC Calvary Chapel Life Way Books in Murray Dolly’s Books in Park City Gift of Grace Bible in Springville . . . and at www.bornagainmormon.com</p> <p>The book talks about sin, Jesus, who I was and where I came from, and about the basics of Mormon doctrine in a straight-forward but non-attacking manner.</p> <p>I do all my attacking here on the show – well, sort-of. ☺</p>
<p>Hey, how are you doing on project “Abandon Ship?”</p> <p>We’ve received dozens of emails and letters from folks who have proactively Asked the LDS church to remove their names from the rolls.</p>	

<p>Not one reports a dearth of blessings, a curse upon their families, a dark cloud overhead.</p> <p>In fact, quite the opposite.</p> <p>All have reported a great sense of relief, a giant load taken off their backs, and a peace that comes with trusting Jesus completely.</p> <p>Send a message, friends, and abandon ship now. Get them to ask why.</p> <p>More information on how to do this is available at www.bornagainmormon.com</p>	
<p>This past week the LDS Church held their semi-annual general conference.</p> <p>We will do a review of the conference “highlights” next week right here on Heart of the Matter.</p>	
<p>But I’ve received no small amount of feedback on a talk given by one Lawrence E. Colbridge of the Quorum of the Seventy about Jesus being the way, truth and the Life.</p> <p>Christians are responding hopefully, stating that the talk was incredibly focused on Jesus Christ, and that maybe it represents the LDS Church coming to the light of Truth relative to salvation.</p> <p>The LDS are writing and telling me that the talk is just another evidence that</p>	

PROVES Mormonism is Christian and I should sit up and take notes.

I didn't hear or read the talk yet, but let's say it was as good and as "on target" as people suggest.

I think there are two accurate responses to this.

First, I would say, Praise God.

Paul wrote in Philippians 1:15-18:

"Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel. What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice."

Anytime the Truth about the Living God is taught, I rejoice. ANYTIME.

Who can say when, where, and how the truth of HIS will be received, right?

But the second response is just as viable as it takes the "context and setting" of the message into account.

I've had people tell me they were saved while they were sitting in a bar drunk out of their skull while another drunk stammered through the gospel message – and it changed their life forever.

<p>To this I would again, praise God.</p> <p>But it doesn't mean the saved individual should stay drunk or mistake the bar for the church and keep attending!</p> <p>The question I have to the gleeful responses to this speech is:</p> <p>"How many other talks were given at the general conference and what was their subject matter?</p> <p>Salvation By Grace? The Bible as God's Infallible Word? The cross? God uncreated? The Trinity?</p> <p>I can tell you right now, without having listened to word one of that conference, that Jesus was not the center of the event – the Church was - and that there was far more added to the saving message of Christ than was presented biblically.</p> <p>Be careful, my friends.</p> <p>And with that warning, let's have a prayer.</p>	
<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>	<p>Love thee. Lift this program up to you. Open our eyes, ears, minds, and hearts to your truth. Thank you for the station and air time. For the volunteers. For those who pray for us and support us.</p>

<p>If you are LDS – and even if you are not - I want you to seriously search your heart right now.</p> <p>I'd like you to ask yourself, truly,</p> <p><i>"What is it I will take to the LORD, when I die, that will justify my receiving life eternal?"</i></p> <p>(beat)</p> <p>Go on . . . ask yourself that. Close your eyes and ask yourself what you are going to carry with you before the throne of God, as it were, that He will look upon and say,</p> <p><i>"Come in to the place I have prepared for you from the foundation of the world."</i></p> <p>On Sunday morning I drove up North Temple here in Salt Lake City to get to the University of Utah.</p> <p>The weather alternated between drizzle and rain, and I watched hundreds – thousands of well dressed, clean-cut handsome people rush toward the magnificent granite conference center of the Mormon Church.</p> <p>I have to admit it was impressive. And if I didn't know better, I am sure I would have been impressed enough to investigate this religion more.</p> <p>As the suits and ties and modest but fine dresses flashed in front of my waiting car, I couldn't help but notice a smallish man, sort-of straggly hair, standing in rain in a green poncho with</p>	

a small sign in one hand and a stack of papers in the other.

The sign was damp and it read:

“Are you saved?”

The masses passed him almost without a notice, save the occasional and confident smirk and nudge that were typically passed between two fast-walking priesthood holders.

I thought about this man throughout the day.

I understood his cardboard question. I resonated to His drive to stand out in the rain and get passed by without a notice.

I mean, here he was, a small frail man standing in the rain with the most recognized Utah landmarks at his back – temple square – and facing a swarm of certain people who filed like drones into a granite hive of enormous power.

The man stood alone against billions upon billions of dollars of financial strength, great political genius, legal eagles, educators, businesspeople, doctors, and captains of industry – all passing him - and his question - by . . . without a second thought.

They were going inside to sit at the feet of men and women who will tell them that their religion – this powerful, wealthy, politically motivated religion – represents all the religious truth on earth – and that they must give it their total and full allegiance in order to save

<p>themselves – and to save the world.</p>	
<p>In the July 3rd 1999 Church News on page 3, the late LDS Prophet and president of the Church, Gordon B. Hinckley said:</p> <p><i>“Our message is so imperative, that, when you stop to think about the salvation, the eternal salvation of the world, it rests upon the shoulders of THIS Church. When all is said and done, if the world is going to be saved, we have to do it. There is no escaping from that. No other people in the history of the world have received the kind of mandate we have received. We are responsible for all who have lived upon the earth, and that involves our missionary work. And we will be responsible for all who yet live upon the earth.”</i></p> <p>Filing into the conference center were thousands of people bent on saving themselves and saving the world.</p> <p>And outside stood one man, in the rain, with a wet cardboard sign that asked:</p> <p><i>“Have you been saved?”</i></p> <p>What do the LDS know that this poor man was missing?</p> <p>Well, they knew that they needed to accept and believe in Joseph Smith teachings in order to receive salvation.</p> <p>Oh . . . your LDS and, and, and you don’t believe this?</p>	

Do you believe Brigham Young?
Not completely! Oh, okay . . . how
about . . .

Joseph Fielding Smith?
Apostle George Q. Cannon?
How about Joseph Smith himself?

The Prophet Joseph Fielding Smith
Said:

*"There is NO salvation without
accepting Joseph Smith. If Joseph
Smith was verily a prophet, and if he
told the truth . . . no man can reject
that testimony without incurring the
most dreadful consequences, for he
cannot enter the kingdom of God!"*
Doctrines of Salvation vol. 1, pg. 190

Apostle George Q Cannon, quoted in
the 1988 Melchizedek Priesthood study
guide , page 142 said:

*"If we get our salvation, we shall
have to pass by him (meaning Joseph
Smith); if we enter into our glory, it
will be through the authority he has
received. We cannot get around him
(Joseph Smith)."*

The Prophet and President Brigham
Young said in JOD v. 7, pg 289:

*"No man or woman in this
dispensation will EVER enter into
the celestial kingdom of God without
the consent of Joseph Smith . . . every
man and woman must have the*

certificate of Joseph Smith Junior, as a passport to their entrance into the mansion where God and Christ are."

I remember when I was a very young Christian listening to Vernon McGee on the radio on afternoon and he said something I didn't really understand or appreciate then, but which I love and embrace today.

He said:

"Why . . . when I stand before God-almighty, he may ask me some kind of questions for all I know. Why, He just may say something like,

"Vernon, what do you have to offer me - what have you done to earn your place in my kingdom?"

"And I'll say, why Lord, I've done nothing. I've got nothing. I've been nothin'."

And then he said something to the effect that he would say, "Lord, I have nothing but my faith in you! Why, I've trusted you and your promises completely because that is what you told me I needed to do! I placed all my hope, all my fears, all my sins, all my failures at your feet - like you said.

Was this enough, Lord."

And J. Vernon McGee said, "And then I will hear the Lord say, "Oh, Vernon, it is more than enough."

You see, the Bible is clear - clear - on

what is required for our salvation and who or what it is that saves the world.

First, we know that we cannot do anything to please God but by our faith!

Heb 11:6 *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

In the Gospel of John, the disciples come to Jesus and ask:

John 6:28 ¶ *Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.*

Did they read Romans, Galatians, Ephesians, or Second Timothy at General Conference this year, my friends?

Did they read

Eph 2:8-9 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Or

Galatians 2:16 *Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even*

we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Did they expound upon

Roman 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Or did they reassure the people with 2nd Timothy 1:9, which says

“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.

These verses are NOT taken out of context friends, they are what caused the man to stand in the rain, they are what brings me to get in front of this camera week after week, they are what caused millions of people the world over – billions – to relinquish their lives and will over to Him who grants all things, all life, all hope.

(beat)

I received an email this morning which I have to read.

I have never read an entire email on the show yet, unless they were exceptionally short.

<p>But this email, in full, is a must.</p> <p>Before I read it, let's open up the phones lines</p> <p>(801) 973-8820 (801) 973-TV20 (READ EMAIL)</p> <p>In the book of Romans, Paul teaches a principle that is frankly revolutionary.</p> <p>Essentially, he says that if you are in the employment of someone, if you are working for someone, they are responsible for paying you the agreed upon wage.</p> <p>In other words, when we have done work for payment or reward, our employer is in our debt until the cash has been handed over.</p> <p>He teaches us that we are not paid by grace, but of debt.</p> <p>Grace, he explains, cannot be a debt or else it ceases to be grace. And earning a reward cannot be grace or else earning or works cease to be works.</p> <p>When the LDS understand that their salvation is based solely, completely, and exclusively on grace – God's gift at Christ's expense – they will completely dispense with adding things into the mix like</p> <p>Needing Joseph Smith to enter heaven Allegiance to a man-made "Church," And empty, unprofitable and filthy works.</p>	<p>It is our prayer that when you now ask yourself:</p> <p><i>"What is it I will take to the LORD, when I die, that will justify my receiving life eternal?"</i></p> <p>Your only response will be</p> <p>FAITH IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.</p>
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<p>EMAILS</p>	
<p>Remember – NEXT WEEK – we’re going to do a review of this past weeks General Conference - so tune in – and well see you then, here on . . . “Heart of the Matter.”</p>	

No transcripts available for October 14, 2008. FAQs

<p>Live!</p> <p>From the "Mecca of Mormonism" SALT LAKE CITY, Utah . . .</p> <p><u>THIS IS HEART OF THE MATTER -</u></p> <p><i>"Where Mormonism Meets Biblical Christianity Face to Face!"</i></p>	<p>Show 44 Word of Wisdom Part I October 21st 2008</p> <p>And I'm Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>Hey, if your family or friends can't watch Heart of the Matter on television because they have dish or are out of the area, have them go to www.HOTM.tv and they can watch it live streaming video from anywhere in the world!</p> <p>There are also -</p> <p>43 hour long programs available at the website from 2006</p> <p>52 shows from 2007</p> <p>And after tonight 44 for this year.</p> <p>Why, that's a hundred and forty hours of scathing information just waiting for you and your searching family and friends!</p> <p>Check it out!</p> <p>And if you're not into visual mediums, why not tune into AM 820 The Truth - where Heart of the Matter can be heard right now - every Tuesday evening from 8 to 9 pm mountain time.</p> <p>That's AM 820 The Truth and/or www.hotm.tv</p>	

<p>Some of you have been openly and some of you have been secretly watching Heart of the Matter for years.</p> <p>Some of you have written and told us that you have come to know the Lord. Others let us know they have learned a lot about Mormonism by tuning in.</p> <p>When we started the ministry we wondered aloud:</p> <p><i>What is the single most important issue every individual initially faces relative to God?</i></p> <p><i>Is it the church they attend?</i> <i>The lifestyle they embrace?</i> <i>Their political affiliation?</i></p> <p>(beat) No.</p> <p><i>Is it the sins they've committed?</i> <i>The life they've lived?</i> <i>The good they've done?</i> <i>The baptism they've received?</i></p> <p>Not at all.</p> <p>Is it the specific doctrines or dogmas they embrace, or how well they know the Bible?</p> <p>No . . . not initially, at least.</p> <p>By examining scripture we came to understand that the single most important issue each one of us faces relative God is –</p> <p>Do I have a new heart? Does a new</p>	

spirit reside within me?

Have I been Born Again?

Take a moment – right now – and seriously ask yourself this very simple question (beat)

Have I been born-again?

If you have, I join with you in praising God – giving thanks for this oh-so-necessary event in your spiritual journey.

If you haven't (or aren't sure if you have) let me take a minute and address this situation.

Now, if you have believed in your heart and confessed with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, the savior, and redeemer . . .

If you gone to Him honestly seeking forgiveness for your sins, and a new life in Him I want you to know that He honors these desires.

Some people, when they have received the Lord's offer of salvation are immediately and radically changed right then and there.

They can discern a tangible change within their lives.

But for others the knowledge of this change is graduated and arrives at varied stages depending on the person.

I want you to know that IF you

believe in your heart and have confessed with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, you are now in a place where you are walking by faith.

You are trusting in His promises.

So my advice to you is to prayerfully TRUST His promises to you, faithfully walk according to His will and ways, dedicate every day to doing His bidding, and ask Him to reveal Himself to you.

I promise you two things: first, you have been saved, and second, God will – in His time – assure you of this certain salvation.

So wait and trust Him.

Now, if you are sitting there – from whatever religious background or history - and have never gone to God in faith asking for a new life in Him, I want to extend the invitation for you right here and now.

If you're a family that has not been saved and you're watching the show, use this time to go to the Lord together.

If you're a single parent or single person . . .

If you're a divorcee . . .

an elderly person . . .

or a teen . . .

or a child . . .

IF YOU HAVE BEEN RELIGIOUS
BUT CANNOT SAY YOU HAVE A
DEEP AND ABIDING

RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS –
initiated ONLY through spiritual
rebirth . . .

Join with me in prayer right here and
right now.



Now I want you to know that God
heard your heart speaking.

**Just speak along
with me OR let your
own heart speak!**

Dear God, Heavenly Father, Lord Jesus –

I come to you as a sinner and I want to
be forgiven now and forever for my sins.

I want to have a relationship with you.

I openly receive all you want me to
receive, and pray that you will give me a
new heart, a new spirit, a new life in
you.

And I ask that you will not only forgive
me Lord, but you will become Lord and
King of my life now and forever more.

And, Lord, I ask that you will let me
have the undeniable assurance that you
have accepted and received me – bless
me with the knowledge to know that I
am yours.

I will wait on you for this knowing,
Lord, and thank you in advance for what
you have promised to do to all who
desire it.

In Jesus Holy Name I pray, amen.

<p>And He will be faithful to His promise. This is why His Son came to earth – to save the world – to save YOU.</p> <p>(beat)</p> <p>Now wait on Him. Trust Him. Begin each day seeking Him, and seeking for ways to hear and see Him in your life.</p> <p>And with this, let's have a prayer.</p>	
<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>	<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>
<p>There are a few things that truly distinguish members of the LDS Church from people of other faiths.</p> <p>The practice and doctrine of polygamy or plural marriage seems to reign supreme in the minds of outsiders.</p> <p>Wearing temple undergarments is another . . . as is having those extra books of scripture are right up there too.</p> <p>But perhaps most widely observed is the outward practice of avoiding all tobacco products, drinking any alcohol whatsoever, consuming coffee or tea and/or using "harmful drugs" unless they are prescribed by a licensed physician.</p> <p>Within Mormonism itself, the</p>	

command for abstaining from these things comes from a revelation Joseph Smith claimed to receive known as the Word of Wisdom which can be located in Section 89 of the LDS scriptures called the Doctrine and Covenants.

In my experience, most Latter-day Saints use obedience to the Word of Wisdom as the PRIMARY indicator of an individual's righteousness – whether they are LDS or not – but especially if they are LDS.

What is determined “obedience” to the Word of Wisdom is a relative matter.

To some, obedience means abstaining from everything mentioned before but including cola drinks, mountain dew, Dr. Peppers, meats, and eating lots of hand ground grains.

To others in the church, there are less and more egregious infractions of the Law.

Drinking alcohol is always verboten, as is using tobacco, but everything else is sort of open game.

Like most things LDS, there are countless applications and countless interpretations.

But one thing can be said with certainty:

Obedience to the Word of Wisdom is a badge of honor, worn proudly on the sleeve of every compliant

believer.

At the risk of sounding sardonic, obedience to the Word of Wisdom – especially to LDS youth, teens, and horrifically naïve parents – usually mothers – is perhaps more important to members of the Mormon Church than a living and abiding faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I will be criticized for saying this, but I think the evidence is there to support the claim because more often than not, Latter-day Saints will identify themselves by what the won't and don't smoke or drink more than who they place all their faith and trust.

I wish we could somehow poll active and faithful Latter-day Saints and ask questions like:

"Can a person who drinks coffee go to heaven? How about tea? Beer? Wine? Whiskey?"

OR

"What would please God more, a man who drinks wine and truly loves and serves his neighbors and God or a man who would never be caught dead touching alcohol or cigarettes or coffee or tea but is controlling?"

I would like to ask parents if they would rather have a teenager who smoked like a chimney but read the word and loved the Lord and others, or a teen who obeyed the word of wisdom, served a mission, and

always tried to do the right, but was sort of mean, gossipy, and pious?

Based on my experience teaching early morning seminary I think the results of such a survey would be shocking.

Now don't get your neck ties all twisted up in a knot. I think that making healthy choices can be a blessing to people and I think Christians are under some obligation to try and care for the bodies God has given them.

Avoiding tobacco is a good thing. Abusing alcohol and drugs is bad.

Coffee? Tea? Whatever.

With the exception to red wine and green teas, I happen to think the advise in the Word of Wisdom is in and of itself wise and anyone who chooses to follow it would *probably* live a healthier life.

So what's the deal, here? Can't I just leave this LDS issue alone – maybe even compliment Joseph for creating it (or claiming to have received it from God)?

No way.

In fact, the more I have endeavored to examine it, the bigger the thing has grown.

We're going to spend the next few weeks talking about why.

I think you'll be surprised by what you learn and hear.

I want to thank my good friend and Christian sister Sandra Tanner for supplying me with some good information on the topic as well as numerous other researchers who have taken the time to find out truth over myth.

Ready?

There are seven general areas we are going to cover regarding the WOW:

Tonight we're going to look at the LDS claims that the WOW is evidence that Joseph was an inspired prophet well ahead of his time and scientific evidence.

We will also look at the setting for which this "revelation" came to Joseph Smith.

Next week, we'll examine how committed Joseph Smith was to the WOW himself and the evolution of enforcement the Word of Wisdom has had in the LDS Church to the present day.

The following week we are going to look at whether the WOW is doctrine or not, how the LDS Church has altered Church History so as to remove unpleasant events related to it.

And then three weeks from now we will look at how the Bible stands on

such doctrines as the WOW.

Following that, we will do our review of the last General Conference.

Okay...

First, let's look at the historical setting surrounding the health movements prior to the coming forth of the Word of Wisdom and in that era of time.

Latter-day Saints love to use the existence of the Word of Wisdom as "evidence" that Joseph Smith was divinely inspired because, according to them, he revealed it (in 1833) well before, modern science knew the dangers of alcohol and tobacco, or coffee and tea, and meat.

Before providing evidence to the contrary, let me read most of the revelation called the Word of Wisdom given February 27th 1833 at Kirkland Ohio:

(SECTION 89)

1 A ^aWord OF Wisdom, for the benefit of the council of high priests, assembled in Kirtland, and the church, and also the saints in Zion —

2 To be sent greeting; not by commandment or constraint, but by revelation and the ^aword of wisdom, showing forth the order and ^bwill of God in the temporal salvation of all saints in the last days —

3 Given for a principle with ^apromise, adapted to the capacity of the ^bweak and the weakest of all ^csaints, who are or can be called saints.

	<p>4 Behold, verily, thus saith the Lord unto you: In consequence of ^a<u>evils</u> and designs which do and will exist in the hearts of ^b<u>conspiring</u> men in the last days, I have ^c<u>warned</u> you, and forewarn you, by giving unto you this word of wisdom by revelation —</p> <p>5 That inasmuch as any man ^a<u>drinketh</u> ^b<u>wine</u> or strong drink among you, behold it is not good, neither meet in the sight of your Father, only in assembling yourselves together to offer up your sacraments before him.</p> <p>6 And, behold, this should be wine, yea, ^a<u>pure</u> wine of the grape of the vine, of your own make.</p> <p>7 And, again, ^a<u>strong</u> drinks are not for the belly, but for the washing of your bodies.</p> <p>8 And again, tobacco is not for the ^a<u>body</u>, neither for the belly, and is not good for man, but is an herb for bruises and all sick cattle, to be used with judgment and skill.</p> <p>9 And again, hot drinks are not for the body or belly.</p> <p>10 And again, verily I say unto you, all wholesome ^a<u>herbs</u> God hath ordained for the constitution, nature, and use of man —</p> <p>11 Every herb in the season thereof, and every fruit in the season thereof; all these to be used with ^a<u>prudence</u> and ^b<u>thanksgiving</u>.</p> <p>12 Yea, ^a<u>flesh</u> also of ^b<u>beasts</u> and of the fowls of the air, I, the Lord, have ordained for the use of man with thanksgiving; nevertheless they are to be used ^c<u>sparingly</u>;</p> <p>13 And it is pleasing unto me that they should not be ^a<u>used</u>, only in times of winter, or of cold, or ^b<u>famine</u>.</p> <p>14 All ^a<u>grain</u> is ordained for the use of</p>
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<p>When I was a kid, I remember countless discussions about how Joseph was told by God about the evils in the world before anyone else in his time could understand.</p> <p>It's important to realize that issues related to health were a hot and growing topic in the early 19th century.</p>	<p>man and of beasts, to be the staff of life, not only for man but for the beasts of the field, and the fowls of heaven, and all wild animals that run or creep on the earth;</p> <p>15 And ^a<u>these</u> hath God made for the use of man only in times of famine and excess of hunger.</p> <p>16 All grain is good for the ^a<u>food</u> of man; as also the ^b<u>fruit</u> of the vine; that which yieldeth fruit, whether in the ground or above the ground —</p> <p>17 Nevertheless, wheat for man, and corn for the ox, and oats for the horse, and rye for the fowls and for swine, and for all beasts of the field, and barley for all useful animals, and for mild drinks, as also other grain.</p> <p>18 And all saints who remember to keep and do these sayings, walking in obedience to the commandments, ^a<u>shall</u> receive ^b<u>health</u> in their navel and marrow to their bones;</p> <p>19 And shall ^a<u>find</u> ^b<u>wisdom</u> and great ^c<u>treasures</u> of ^d<u>knowledge</u>, even hidden treasures;</p> <p>20 And shall ^a<u>run</u> and not be ^b<u>weary</u>, and shall walk and not faint.</p> <p>21 And I, the Lord, give unto them a promise, that the ^a<u>destroying</u> angel shall ^b<u>pass</u> by them, as the children of Israel, and not slay them. Amen.</p>
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Lester E Bush reported that

" . . . it is relevant to recall that from a few thousand advocates late in the 1820's the American Temperance Society had grown to well over a million members by 1834.

He also wrote:

"The leaders of the movement were most often clergymen

What people ate, drank, and how they cared for their body was a topic within the Body of Christ before Joseph Smith was even born!

In the century prior to Joseph's "revelation," John Wesley's *"Primitive Physic"* vigorously condemned all sorts of things found in the Word of Wisdom, including strong drinks.

According to Bush, Sylvester Graham (the guy who invented the graham cracker) and Dr. William Alcott also crusaded strongly against other stimulants like "coffee, tea, and all meats."

Often food consumption was related to the time of season by these crusaders of health, which, in my opinion, made Joseph's "revelation" on the subject just another in a long list of plagiarisms.

Where Joseph Smith said God told him:

"Flesh . . . only in times of winter, or of

cold, or famine" and "every herb in the season thereof"

One Dr. Ticknor wrote in his book, *The Philosophy of Living*:

"And not only is animal food proper in winter . . . and during the heat of summer (nature) has given us a variety of succulent vegetables and fruits."

But popular topics in his day that became "revelations" in Joseph's mind didn't end with meat and vegetables.

Eliminating tea and coffee from the American diet was another health reformist cause at the time too, according to the research of Lester Bush. Especially if these drinks were served hot.

Speaking of hot coffee and tea, Andrew Combe in "Physiology of Digestion" which was published in 1836, wrote:

"when made very strong or taken in large quantity, especially late in the evening, they not only ruin the stomach, but very seriously derange the health of the brain and nervous system."

I recite these quotes to you so you can hear for yourself that opinions on substances like alcohol, tobacco, coffee, tea and meat were a frequent topic in Joseph Smith's day and age and to show how his revelations were right on target with what the most vocal health advocates were claiming.

Even John Wesley, *in the previous century*, warned that coffee and tea were

“extremely harmful” to those with weak nerves.

And what about tobacco?

Researchers going back as far as 1633 we are able to locate the Word of Wisdom notion that tobacco could be used as an herb for bruises.

For centuries, tobacco, which was referred to as “the weed,” was used for all sorts of concoctions and poultices.

Just another example of good old Joseph taking current events around him and transforming them into revelations from God.

Now, admittedly, it was thought, for sometime, that smoking it would help against things like catching the black plague.

But by 1830, a strong anti-tobacco lobby had begun to take root on American soil which was all part of the Popular Health Reform Movement that began in New England and had spread all the way to Ohio where Joseph resided for a spell.

This Health Reform movement was spearheaded by people like

Sylvester Graham, Ellen G. White (of

Seventh-Day Adventist fame) the Kellogg family (yes, the Tony the Tiger Kellogg people) and C.W. Post (yes, the Grape-nut breakfast cereal family).

These health reformers condemned alcohol, tobacco, tea, coffee, opium, and other “stimulants” including meat well before God told Joseph His opinion on the same matters.

In the book, The Burned over District by Whitney R Cross (which is a great read, by the way) he writes:

(Read quote here)

So while the advice found in the Word of Wisdom may have some basis (some) why don't they ever recite the story within an honest contextual setting instead of presenting Joseph as this divinely inspired guru of healthy living?

We know why.

So how did the so-called revelation come about anyhow?

For the most part, Church History admits the setting.

In the preface of Doctrine and Covenants Section 89 it states:

"As a consequence of the early brethren using tobacco in their meetings, the Prophet was led to ponder upon the matter; consequently he inquired of the Lord concerning it. This revelation, known as the Word of Wisdom, was the result. The first three verses were originally written as an inspired introduction and description by the Prophet."

Brigham Young, however, in Journal of Discourses (Vol. 12 page 158) adds a little more information to the que, when he said:

"I think I am as well acquainted with the circumstances which led to the giving of the WOW as any man in the Church (so humble, that Brigham) although I was not present at the time to witness them. The first school of the prophets was held in a small room situated over the prophet's kitchen . . . when they assembled together in this room after breakfast, the first thing they did was light their pipes, and while smoking, talked about the great things of the kingdom, and spit all over the room, and as soon as the pipe was out of their mouths a large chew of tobacco would then be taken. Often when the prophet entered the room to give the school instructions he would find himself in a cloud of tobacco smoke. This, and the complaints of his wife at having to clean so filthy a floor, made the prophet think on the matter, and he inquired of the Lord

relating to the conduct of the Elders in using tobacco, and the revelation known as the Word of Wisdom was the result of this inquiry."

Interestingly, David Whitmer, who was one of the witnesses to the Book of Mormon, gave other insights to the revelation, and it was printed in the Des Moines Daily News on Saturday, October 16th 1886:

(Read Article [here](#))

Convenient revelations which were often tied and even plagiarized from current events are located throughout most Joseph Smith's work – from the Book of Mormon to much of the Doctrine and Covenants.

Next week, we'll examine how committed Joseph was to this convenient revelation.

Let's go to the phones:

(801) 973-TV20

(801) 973-8820

Emails?

Conclusion	
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<p>Live!</p> <p>From the “Mecca of Mormonism” SALT LAKE CITY, Utah . . . SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH!</p> <p><u>THIS IS HEART OF THE MATTER –</u></p> <p><i>“Where Mormonism Meets Biblical Christianity Face to Face!”</i></p>	<p>Show 46 Word of Wisdom III November 4th 2008</p> <p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host, on this historic night, November 4th 2008, where America speaks their mind.</p>
<p>Hey, if your family or friends can’t watch Heart of the Matter on television because they have dish or are out of the area, have them go to www.HOTM.tv and they can watch it live streaming video from anywhere in the world!</p> <p>Also, you can hear Heart of the Matter on AM 820 The Truth right now –Tuesday evening from 8 to 9 pm mountain time.</p> <p>That’s AM 820 The Truth and/or www.hotm.tv for streaming video.</p>	
<p>Well, it pretty much goes without saying that the United States of America – this nation – is in the midst of a ferocious battle for its very soul, with “soul” being defined as the Mind, Will, and Emotion of the nation.</p> <p>As I drive around this beautiful state and in my home state of California, I see rabid campaigning for McCain, and cult-like promotion of Obama.</p>	

I'd like to take a moment tonight and speak to this. Not because I think what I will say will affect anything tonight, or tomorrow, or this year.

But someday, maybe someone will take a minute out of their day and replay this commentary.

And maybe someday there will be a even MORE of a pressing need for what I am about to share.

My words tonight are to confirmed Christians of all denominations.

I am speaking to people who embrace Jesus as the Lord, Savior and King of their lives.

While the world – or especially the nation – is falling all over themselves for change, for hope, for a savior, if you will, let me remind you that you discovered Him already.

He came with a valid and applicable message of True Hope and Salvation.

He came and offered you THE ONLY place where solace can be found and . . . and TRUSTED.

The answers to your problems AND the problems of our nation and world DO NOT lie -and NEVER have been found in an elected official, his or her abilities, charisma, or strengths.

The world has NEVER found salvation in the power of men – only despair.

Remember, my friends, that it is the “churches” job – your pastors, your priests, your reverends, to bring you week after week closer to the True and Living Savior.

It is from the pulpit that all seekers and believers ought to embrace the only true campaign speeches ever given – which come directly from the Word of God.

The church of Jesus Christ has NO business – none – in politics.

We know where salvation lies for the children, for the teens, for adults, for parents, for education, for the community, and for the World itself – in Jesus Christ.

To the Christian, anything and everything else is but a temporary fix.

Contrary to the focus and drive of most Christian radio and television ministries, our hope and duty lies not in social activism but in Jesus and Jesus alone – in sharing Jesus, in exemplifying Jesus, in loving and teaching as Jesus would love and teach.

This was His message to us but the church - and its representatives – have somehow decided it is the Christian duty to save the world.

HA!

Like many of you, we have been swamped with dire warnings about

our future, with a “call to arms” against the destructive powers that loom precariously on the horizon.

We are deluged with reminders that it is our duty – our Christian *duty* – to stand out in the street and fight against the rivers of filth that are collecting, even threatening, to completely saturate the American Way of life.

Recently, I received yet another “call to action” email from a well-meaning Christian friend who I went to ministry school with in California.

There was an attached video that he suggested all pastor’s show in their churches the Sunday before the national elections.

I sent him a response that said:

(Read email to Rich H. [here](#))

If the world needed a political mover and shaker to save it, this is what Jesus would have been. But He wasn’t. Not even close.

He was a saver of souls, a lover of men, and women and children, a creator, a sharer of eternal truth.

I’ve got news for you - we will NEVER win the war of the world – never. Nor will we stop its progress.

But we can – certainly – as believers in the saving message of True Hope – share this message (that has saved

<p>us) with the war-torn casualties who lie bleeding and wounded in its wake.</p> <p>This is what Jesus did.</p> <p>This is what we must do. This is the Christian duty.</p> <p>(Beat)</p>	
<p>I recently stopped by Utah Lighthouse Ministry and had a short conversation with Sandra Tanner.</p> <p>I needed some advice on some books - which I received.</p> <p>By the way, Utah Lighthouse Ministries is running a special where they will give you I Was A Born-Again Mormon as a gift when you purchase over 40.00 in other books or resource material – so go to www.utlm.org for more information on that.</p> <p>But anyway, one of the books Sister Tanner recommended to me is called:</p> <p>The Golden Bible, or The Book of Mormon, Is it from God? By M.T. Lamb.</p> <p>The thing is amazing. Tremendous insights and a great read.</p> <p>You see, MT Lamb was a preacher who really – I mean truly – dug into the book of Mormon and examined it linguistically, contextually, and comparatively against the Word of God.</p>	

Nearly every paragraph presents a diamond of perspective in which I have never considered.

I think I am going to do a little segment of these little diamonds each week before the monologue.

Here's tonights:

Brother Lamb takes the Bible and shows the exquisite nature of God's Word.

That the Holy Spirit fell upon people and caused them to write what God would have them write and how the product of their revelations was extremely concise yet overflowing with depth and purpose.

Now the important thing to remember about the Book of Mormon is Joseph DID NOT TRANSLATE the book – NOT A SINGLE SENTENCE.

Sometimes people get the idea that he read the plates, then sort of figured out what the ancient language was saying, then wrote it to the best of his ability.

Not so.

The Three Witnesses wrote that he translated the book **BY the "Gift and Power of God."**

You will learn more of what this means in a minute.

David Witmer, one of the Three Witnesses, said:

“The tablets or plates were translated by Smith, who used a small oval, or kidney-shaped stone called the Urim and Thummim, that seemed endowed with the marvelous power of *converting the characters on the plates, when used by Smith, into English.*”

So the characters etched in the plates, according to Witmer, were converted into English by the marvelous power of a rock. How?

Martin Harrisone of the three witnesses, said:

“By aid of the seer-stone, sentences would appear and were read by the prophet . . . so that the translation was just as it was engraven on the plates, *precisely in the language then used.*”

Recall that He put His face in a hat with the stone inside of it, and words would appear to Him, and Joseph would read the words, and if they were read correctly and recorded correctly, they would disappear and be replaced by the appearance of more “precise words.”

This was NOT translating, it was Joseph reading written dictation from the plates and a scribe recording them.

So clear was the writing that

witnesses claimed that there were even occasions when a word would show up that Joseph didn't know how to pronounce and he would spell it out so the scribe wouldn't make any error in transcribing it to the paper!

Okay, got all that?

Now the LDS claim this is why the Book of Mormon can be trusted over the Bible – because it has NOT been repeatedly translated over and over again throughout the ages like the Bible but instead came from the original writers by the power of God through one single man!

The language of the Bible is exquisite, profound, succinct, and expands in texture and richness each time it is read.

We'll let me read you a few direct quotes that were, remember, supposed to have come directly from the Power of God, to Joseph Smith, and into the Book of Mormon.

"Yea, if my days could have been in *them* days . . ."

"And they did arrive *to* the promised land . . ."

"And thus we see that they had buried their weapons of peace, or they buried the weapons of war, *for peace* . . ."

Now, I have no issue with Joseph, as the author of the Book of Mormon

(which the Book of Mormon used to list him as) making such errors. But to receive the actual words by God, through his stone, in the hat, and to have God's write like this? ☺

Oh, there are just hundreds and hundreds of them . . . but let me give you some of the more ludicrous examples:

In Alma it is written –

“There were no robbers,” (Alma explains) nor murderers; neither were there Lamanites, nor any manner of ites, but they were in one, the children of Christ??!”

“Yea, there were no stalagmites,
nor stalagtites,
nor men in tights,
nor gay rights
nor city lights
neither bar fights
nor shi'ites,

Brother.

But one of the all time greats reads:

“and went forth among the people, waving the rent of his garment in the air, that all might see *the writing which he had wrote upon the rent.*”

Acceptable for an author? Sure.

Acceptable even for someone attempting to translate from one language into another? Yes!

But unacceptable for words coming

<p>directly from God to the eyes of a living prophet!</p> <p>Think about it.</p> <p>Next week we're going to examine Book of Mormon miracles.</p>	
<p>So with that, let's have a word of prayer.</p>	
<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>	<p>Open our eyes, and ears, and help us know your will, Lord.</p>
<p>Two weeks ago we started talking about the Word of Wisdom, which is where the LDS get their rules and laws for health.</p> <p>We talked about the circumstances in which Joseph Smith received the so-called revelation.</p> <p>Last week, we showed how little the revelation actually meant to Joseph Smith himself since after it was given, he continued to drink alcohol and use tobacco.</p> <p>Tonight we are going to look at how the LDS application and interpretation of the Word of Wisdom has evolved over the years, becoming today a watermark of holiness where obedience is required in order to live with God again.</p>	
<p>In the journals and Histories of the Church, as well as other reliable historical places, the evidence is ample that the early Latter-day Saints understood the Word of Wisdom in vastly different ways.</p>	

After all, it was given by way of sound advice, and not a commandment.

Remember, that in general the Christian community was far more legalistic in these matters of drink and smoke than Mormons in their first 70 years of existence – with Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, and B.H Roberts greatly enjoying in the partaking of the fruits of the earth.

In 1898, nearly 45 years after the death of Joseph Smith, the First Presidency and quorum of the Twelve Apostles sat down and deliberated over the Word of Wisdom.

Lorenzo Snow, who was the president of the Twelve Apostles believed that the WOW should be lived to the letter including the eating of meat except in extreme circumstances, because Joseph Smith taught that animals have spirits.

The Prophet at the time, Wilford Woodruff agreed, but said they should hold off on enforcing it – especially the eating meat part.

The minutes of the meeting read:

“President Woodruff said he regarded the WOW in its entirety as given of the Lord for the LDS to observe, but he did not think Bishops should withhold temple recommends from persons who did not adhere to it strictly.”

That was 1898.

Now, either the WOW was from God's mouth or it was not.

Either it was to be obeyed to display worthiness, or it was not.

Either a man was defiled by having a drink, or a smoke, or he was not.

But it seems that even after the turn of the century, LDS leaders couldn't agree upon what was true and right and what was not.

After Lorenzo Snow became president of the Church he again stood fast for strict obedience to the WOW – including NOT eating meat – but some of the twelve apostles did not believe this included drinking beer – especially Danish beer and current wine.

Apostles Anthon H. Lund and Mathaias Cowley enjoyed Danish beer and currant wine, as did Charles W. Penrose. Emmaline B. Wells, a member of RS presidency and later President enjoyed an occasional cup of coffee, and George Albert Smith took brandy “for medicinal reasons.”

Hey, that's why I drink tequila! J/k!

Apostles George Teasdale and President Woodruff though eating pork was a far more serious crime than drinking coffee or tea.

Heber J Grant appears to have been the most vocal in favor for total

WOW adherence. He was a leader in the state prohibition movement. Grant was outraged – outraged – when some of the apostles actually opposed the prohibition of beer sales at the Salt Air Saloon.

When Lorenzo Snow died, and Joseph F Smith took his place, he sort of echoed Heber J. Grants strong opinions for the WOW – but the use of meat was sort of dropped all together at this time.

I love it when the word of God is sort-of open to what suits you.

By 1902, the First Presidency and Twelve agreed not to “fellowship with anyone who frequented or operated saloons (I wonder if this would have included the Marriott Hotel guys at the time) and they urged the stake Presidents to refuse to give flagrant violators of the WOW temple recommends.

(The did suggest leniency for those old men who liked tobacco and old ladies who enjoyed their tea).

By mid-1905 the campaign to sort of obey the WOW or not be allowed in leadership started taken hold under the leadership of the First Presidency.

To be consistent with this focus, they made an administrative change, beginning July of 1906, to replace the sacramental wine in their temple meetings with water.

Now, really pause and think about

this. Jesus HIMSELF drank wine and commanded us to drink wine in remembrance of His shed blood.

And the LDS drink water! In fact, it is often rotten, filthy tap water that has sat in the pipes and tastes absolutely horrific.

I mean, there is just no respect for the LORD. Couldn't they at least use purified water? More to the point, couldn't they at least use wine of the grape as Jesus did?

Now if you are LDS, this may seem insignificant to you. But it's not. It is symbolic of His shed blood by which you are cleansed!

Between the years of 1907 and 1917, there were a number of factors than led to a greater allegiance and enforcement of the WOW, including the prohibition movement and some other pressing political issues the Church faced.

In 1915, President Joseph F. Smith took the enforcement a little farther, saying:

"middle aged men who have had experience in the church should NOT be ordained to the priesthood nor recommended to the privileges of the house of the Lord (meaning no temple) unless they will abstain from the use of tobacco and intoxicating drinks."

And the noose just kept getting

tighter and tighter, to the point where only those who outwardly conforming were allowed the opportunity for true salvation.

In 1921, under Heber J. Grant, church leadership made adherence to the WOW a requirement for admission to the temple.

With prohibition under way, the 1920 also introduced some legislation to ban the sale of tobacco in Utah.

An 1923 Ensign article argued that tobaccos users naturally linked themselves with evil persons such as profaners, criminals, vagrants, and prostitutes.

You know what, this might actually be true. I mean on scale, I think we would find that those lower on the social and socio-economic scale are smokers. But this isn't the issue.

The issue is who the hell do they think they are? Really? Now I've got a daughter who likes to smoke the weed. And she enjoys alcohol at times. And while I think she would be far better off without them in her life, she has got a heart, and a soul, and a gift of love unlike many I have ever seen!

Who do they think they are? And do they really believe that God is impressed with them for these perspectives?

GOSH!

Then, with the use of meat ignored from the original revelation, some started getting the idea that there were some other substances that needed to be banned – caffeinated drinks!

In March of 1917, Frederick J. Pack of the University of Utah published an article in the LDS magazine, The Improvement Era, which asked the question:

“Should LDS drink Coca-Cola?”

His answer was NO.

Why? Because even though it was not prohibited in the WOW, such drinks contained the same ingredients as coffee and tea.

One rule for worthiness will always lead to more.

So rabid was the topic that the Coca Cola company called and complained to President Heber Grant that as a result of this fanaticism, false things were being said about their product, like that it five times as much caffeine as coffee (when it can be shown that there are 1.7 grams of caffeine in a cup of Joe and only .43 grams in the same amount of Coke.

The LDS leadership has not taken an official stand on the use of caffeinated soft drinks but to say that members should not use any substance that is harmful to the body or addictive.

<p>Since obedience to the WOW became requisite for exaltation in Mormondom, varied opinions and trends have surfaced among it's members as to what is "allowed" and what is not.</p> <p>Nevertheless, a temple recommend is almost never given to a person who consumes coffee, tea, alcoholic beverages of any sort, tobacco products of any kind, and/or harmful drugs without a prescription from a licensed medical practitioner.</p> <p>Let's open up the phone lines so our operators can start separating the wheat from the chaff.</p> <p>(801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p> <p>First time callers, please. Preferably LDS. Please turn down your television sets. And try and have a concise question or comment ready.</p>	
<p>Perhaps the most important thing about the WOW is it's canonicity.</p> <p>Is it doctrine?</p> <p>Now, I have LDS people adamantly contend that the Adam God teaching was not doctrine, because it was never canonized.</p> <p>So, on the one hand, was doctrine and Covenants section 89 canonized?</p> <p>There was a sustaining vote taken in</p>	

1880 that the Doctrine and Covenants be binding on the Church membership – which passed.

So, based in this evidence, I could agree that the WOW is LDS doctrine.

BUT . . . BUT . . . what is the doctrine? What did the revelation say?

It said that it was given as a “principle with a promise” and NOT by way of commandment.

So, if the WOW as it was received was canonized, and it truly LDS doctrine, what is the doctrine?

THAT THE WOW was given NOT as a commandment but a principle. There is NO contemporary edict, announcement, or alteration from the LDS church to alter this.

The true value in this issue really has nothing to do with the WOW or the contents or obedience to it itself.

It has to do with inconsistency in Mormon apologetics.

It has to do with authority and power and manipulation taking precedence over God’s gentle love in peoples lives.

It has to do with salvation, and God’s acceptance being twisted to meet institutional demands so as to control the masses.

Next week, we are going to read

<p>what the Bible was to say about such demands as the WOW.</p> <p>It think you will be surprised.</p>	
EMAILS	
Conclusion:	

<p>LIVE! From the “Mecca of Mormonism” SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH This is <u>Heart of the Matter</u>! <i>“Where Mormonism Meets Christianity Face to Face.”</i></p>	<p><i>Show 47 Word of Wisdom IV November 11th 2008</i></p> <p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>Streaming Video Announcement HOTM.TV</p> <p>.....</p> <p>AM 820 The Truth! Listen to Heart of the Matter every Tuesday night from 8-9pm</p> <p>(hold up sign) 820 AM The Truth –</p> <p>Got Truth? Go to 820 AM KUTR The Truth</p> <p><i>Really have great programming for Christians seeking to know the Word, and for seekers seeking to know the Lord.</i></p>	
	<p>I Was a Born-Again Mormon</p> <p>(read endorsements from book)</p> <p>IWABAM is available at:</p> <p>UTLM.ORG or in the store itself. Oasis Books in Logan Christian Gift and Bible in Sandy New Life books in Layton Sam Weller’s downtown SLC Calvary Chapel and other CC book stores Dolly’s Books in Park City Gift of Grace Bible in Springville</p>

	... and at www.bornagainmormon.com
<p>Hey!</p> <p>You! Yeah, the one over there who has been “pretending” in one way of another for all these years.</p> <p>Have you abandoned ship yet?</p> <p>What? “You don’t know what to do?”</p> <p>Just go to UTLM.org OR bornagainmormon.com for instructions.</p> <p>Then take the step to remove your name from the rolls of “the institution.”</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>One, why not show them up there on North Temple that you will not be controlled by their threats of damnation any longer – that Jesus is enough for you – and you don’t need their Joseph.</p> <p>Maybe your departure will reemphasize that you want to hear the Bible taught – enough about the “lives of the LDS prophets,” crap.</p> <p>Maybe you will pave the way for others in your life – to show them you did it and you are just fine – in spite of all the dire threats and warnings.</p> <p>Finally, you will be sending a message out loud and clear, “I want out. It’s over. It’s dead. I want to</p>	

<p>stand before God someday and exclaim: “You were enough for me!”</p> <p>Go to www.utlm.org or www.bornagainmormon.com, where you can learn how to write the letter, where to send the letter, and how to abandon ship!</p>	
<p>Now get your calendars out and mark Friday, December 5th from 7 to 9 pm – for the second annual KTMW Christmas open house!</p> <p>Food, give-aways, Christmas cheer.</p> <p>Come by and say hello to all the hosts here on their sets.</p> <p>Friday, December 5th from 7-9pm.</p>	
<p>Well on election day last week I said that biblical Christianity has no business getting involved in political issues in order to try and save the world from itself.</p> <p>Christianity is to be a light, not the moral police force of the world.</p> <p>I said that somehow Christians today have come to equate the “precious faith” with being active in politics and social issues.</p> <p>When Jesus was brought before Pilate to be condemned to death, He made a very interesting comment, saying:</p> <p><i>John 18:36 “My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of</i></p>	

this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."

Commenting on the vitality and importance of what Jesus said before Pilate, Paul later wrote in 1st Timothy 6:13 that Jesus witnessed "a good confession.

A confession that was not according to the ways of this world.

Again, should we pray? Yes.
Love? Always – endlessly.
Share our faith? Absolutely.

But try and monitor and govern the world by our moral code – no.

Over the past week we have seen first hand why this stance is so important.

In California there was an initiative on the ballot to ban same sex marriage.

It was nick-named "the Mormon initiative" as the LDS church threw themselves behind it.

Well, Californian voters passed the initiative and in response, homosexual protesters have gathered around LDS temples to publicly display their distain for the Church's involvement.

Now, some may be of the impression that the LDS Church is to be admired for their public stance.

“Good for them to “stand for something!” Bravo! Tally hoe!”

If individuals are inclined to protest or support initiatives, more power to them. But I find the collective, institutional LDS stance neither commendable nor truly Christian.

All it shows me is that their kingdom is of this world.

What Mormonism did was merely use their money, muscle, and influence to *have their way*.

Let me ask you, where will such involvements end?

“If Mormonism were big enough and strong enough, would it rally it’s people to reinstitute prohibition too?

What about polygamy and blood atonement? Or the requisite observance of special Sunday laws?

These are, or were, at one time very important “moral” issues to the LDS institution.

What I am trying to say is there is nothing heroic or necessarily Christian about the LDS involvement in getting Prop 8 passed.

I don’t think Jesus would have been publicly behind it.

(beat)

But then again, what Jesus stood for

has never really mattered to the LDS institution when it comes to their ways, has it?	
And with this, let's have a prayer.	PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER
<p>Well tonight the show is really going to live up to the claim of being the place <i>"where Mormonism meets biblical Christianity face to face."</i></p> <p>If you want to get some ammunition, get your Bibles out, my friends.</p> <p>Over the past few weeks we've had a brief but good look at what the LDS call their "Word of Wisdom," or code of health – you know, no tea, coffee, alcohol, tobacco, or harmful drugs.</p> <p>We've looked at the origin of the revelation, and Joseph's subsequent failure to obey it, and how it was optional for seventy five years but today has become a mandate for salvation – with salvation defined as after life with God – and a primary indicator of being a good person.</p> <p>Well, just what does the Bible say about what human beings eat and drink . . . and smoke and ingest?</p> <p>Let's step back a moment and look first at what God had in mind relative to what His people consumed.</p> <p>Now, as we move along through this discussion, gently ask yourself why our Great God Almighty – creator of all things – created coffee beans, and tea leaves, and grapes that ferment, and animal meat that taste so good?</p>	

Now originally, it seems God granted the use of vegetables and fruits for the food of man – with the exception of the Fruit of the Tree of Good and Evil.

We read in Genesis

“And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.”

I am of the personal opinion that the use of animal food was probably not known to the antediluvians (or the people prior to Noah.) I may be wrong about this, though.

Nevertheless, it seems like after the flood, Noah is then given a distinct law on the subject of eating animals:

(Genesis 9:2-4)

“And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered. Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things. But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.”

Pretty straightforward stuff, eh?

When the Children of Israel fled from Egypt, God, wanting to raise up and protect His peculiar people from mixing with the surrounding pagan nations, instituted a number of things that would keep them separated – and their dietary laws were very effective at accomplishing this.

We can read about them in Leviticus chapter 11.

These restrictions automatically and immediately segregated the Children of Israel from the rest of the world.

This was, in my opinion, the primary motivation for the law. Health too, but it primarily set them apart.

But where Joseph Smith's Word of Wisdom has God say that meat was not so good, and that strong drink and wine are not so good, there was actually a lot of "liberty" in God's plan for the Children of Israel in what they could eat and drink.

In fact, listen to the tenor of the Lord's commands when it came to this liberty:

In Deuteronomy 14:25 there is a discussion about money, then in verse 26 it says

"And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth

after, for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth. and thou shalt eat there before the LORD thy God, and thou shalt rejoice, thou, and thine household."

So where God's covenant people were permitted to eat as much of these meats as they so lusted, and to buy and drink strong drink and wine, Joseph's God out did Himself with the Mormons and said, "No, no, no," Even though Joseph continued to say, "yes, yes, yes."

MANipulation.

The introduction to the True and Living monotheist God to the COI, and the Law, and these dietary commands served to keep the COI separate and peculiar, but they did *little* to separate them from sin and rebellion.

This fact underscores the difference between the COI and the Law and Christians living by faith in a dispensation of grace.

In Acts chapter 15, well after Jesus ascended into heaven, a group of Pharisees attempted to reinstitute part of the law – the rite of circumcision – back upon the backs (or other parts) of gentile converts.

In response to this Pharisaical appeal to religion, Acts 15 says

"And the apostles and elders came

together for to consider of this matter. And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them,

“Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

Now therefore, why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.”

The apostles knew what it would take to keep them – and Gentile converts – from their sinful and rebellious ways - not circumcision, special days of worship, and restrictions from eating or drinking certain things – but faith!

Herein is a main difference between The Law and Grace, religion and relationship, outward adherence verses inward change.

(beat)

In preparation for what He was about to accomplish, Jesus began to introduce to His followers some transitional thinking that moved them away from outward observances and toward inward allegiance, saying in Matthew 15:11:

"Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man."

Did you hear that Bishop? Stake President? Thomas Monson?

After Jesus said this, the disciples came to Him and told Him that such teachings were "offending the Pharisees."

Jesus replied:

*"Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth **from the heart; and they defile the man.**"*

I would place ALL my money on the drunkard, the smoker, the addict who knows the Lord's Gospel of grace a trillion times over a tea-totalling aesthetic who thinks because he has never smoked or drank makes him worthy or

righteous for the Kingdom of heaven.

And yet Mormonism today, has resurrected these legalisms and requires "all to obey" who want to receive what they say is necessary for salvation – their temple rites, and rituals, and legalisms.

Paul made the point perfectly clear in Romans 14:17 where He said:

"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

You see, once Jesus erased sin, death, disease, and outer and inner filth permanently from the lives of all who believe - past, present, and future - what people eat or drink became a big, fat, none-event.

Excuse me? Excuse me, but did you just hear what I said?

I said:

"Once Jesus erased sin, death, disease, and outer and inner filth from the lives of all who believe . . ."

You see, there was no need for special dietary rules and regulations any longer to keep people separate and peculiar.

All are invited into the kingdom as the way had been cleared of all to enter in.

Did you hear that too?

The way was open to all – black people, white people, gentile people, Jewish people, women people, men people, slave people, midget people, gay and straight people, sinful people, smoker people, drinker people, people who dress badly people, people who dress goodly people, rich people, poor people, armless and leg-less people – all freaking people - REGARDLESS of who they are, what they have done, OR what they even continue to do – to enter into the unconditional love, peace, forgiveness, and joy that comes through faith in Jesus.

You get it? Huh?

How about some more?

Paul said in 1st Corinthians 8:8

“But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse.”

Speaking of all the legalisms
Mormons try to inforce Paul wrote in

Colossian 2:16:

"Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days"

Does this sound like Mormonism?

Paul said in 1st Timothy 4 that
"in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy (that means saying one thing and doing another – Joseph), having their conscience seared with a hot iron; (that means acting and speaking outside of God's will without a care) Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth."

All this being said, there is perhaps no better summation of the biblical Christian approach to eating and drinking of any and all things than what is found in Romans chapter 14.

So profound, so important, so contradictory is this chapter from the LDS demands for Word of Wisdom that I think it worth the time to read it.

It won't take too long.

<p>So open up to Romans 14 and read yet another biblical teaching that is at odds with contemporary Mormon doctrine and practice.</p>	
<p><i>Romans 14:1 ¶ Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations.</i></p> <p><i>2 For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs.</i></p> <p><i>3 Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him.</i></p> <p><i>4 Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.</i></p> <p><i>5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.</i></p> <p><i>6 He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.</i></p>	

*7 For none of us liveth to himself,
and no man dieth to himself.*

*8 For whether we live, we live unto
the Lord; and whether we die, we
die unto the Lord: whether we live
therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.*

*9 For to this end Christ both died,
and rose, and revived, that he
might be Lord both of the dead and
living.*

*10 But why dost thou judge thy
brother? or why dost thou set at
nought thy brother? for we shall all
stand before the judgment seat of
Christ.*

*11 For it is written, As I live, saith
the Lord, every knee shall bow to
me, and every tongue shall confess
to God.*

*12 So then every one of us shall
give account of himself to God.*

*13 Let us not therefore judge one
another any more: but judge this
rather, that no man put a
stumblingblock or an occasion to
fall in his brother's way.*

*14 I know, and am persuaded by
the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing
unclean of itself: but to him that
esteemeth any thing to be unclean,
to him it is unclean.*

15 But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died.

16 Let not then your good be evil spoken of.

17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

18 For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men.

19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

20 For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who eateth with offence.

21 It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.

22 Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth.

<p><i>23 And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.</i></p>	
<p>My friends,</p> <p>ANY FOOL can make a Rule and ANY Leader can talk like Peter (that second line is an original) but the liberty of the Gospel of Jesus Christ cannot be counterfeited or feigned.</p> <p>There is no “worthiness” that God sees in you because of what you eat or drink –</p> <p>Righteousness and worthiness was Singularly offered in the form of His Son, once and for all.</p> <p>Eat well? Sure. Avoid addictions? Absolutely! It’s good.</p> <p>But don’t ever think you are worthy or better than another because you have been wise where others have stumbled, tripped or fallen.</p> <p>Because where you might have clear lungs and a healthy body, they may possess the better part – a heart for the Lord.</p> <p>Let’s open the phone lines up:</p> <p>(801) 973-8820 (801) 973-TV20</p>	
<p>Emails</p>	

Conclusion	

<p>LIVE! From the “Mecca of Mormonism” SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH This is <u>Heart of the Matter</u>!</p> <p><i>“Where Mormonism Meets Christianity Face to Face.”</i></p>	<p>Show 15 Mormon Cake April 14th 2009</p> <p>And I’m your host, Shawn McCraney</p>
<p>If you have family or friends who can’t watch HEART OF THE MATTER through the available television channels – they can go to HOTM.TV and watch LIVE through streaming video from anywhere in the world.</p> <p>WWW.HOTM.TV</p>	
<p>Hey, we meet every Sunday for verse by verse Bible studies – once in Salt Lake in the afternoon and once in Logan in the evening.</p> <p>After you’ve attended your local church, come join us.</p> <p>For times and locations go to www.calvarycampus.com.</p> <p>All are welcome.</p>	
<p>How about some solid websites we suggest:</p> <p>First there are ours:</p> <p>www.bornagainmormon.com www.hotm.tv www.calvarycampus.com</p> <p>Then there is www.utlm.org</p>	

<p>Do you appreciate Heart of the Matter programming and want to somehow play a part in this ministry?</p> <p>Go to www.hotm.tv and check out how to become a HOTM Partner.</p> <p>We thank you for all your support in the past and need you now.</p> <p>If you're not internet savvy, call</p> <p>1 888 868-HOTM about becoming a HOTM Partner</p>	
<p>Our ministry has strived very hard to love all people of every lifestyle and every religious choice <u>while at the same time</u> standing relentlessly for biblical truth.</p> <p>These lines can be easily blurred, resulting in some people mistaking the presentation of biblical truth with a lack of love or our unconditional love with a failing to present biblical truth.</p> <p>Our position has always been:</p> <p>We love, accept, embrace all people no matter what they believe, how they live, or the choices they make in their lives.</p> <p>We firmly believe this is our Christian duty.</p> <p>In our ministry this is especially applied to the LDS as they are our primary focus.</p>	

We refuse to condemn anyone individual to hell, leaving that decision in the hands of God.

Hard as this is for some to believe it is out of our love for all individuals that we relentlessly and unapologetically attack all heretical teachings and philosophy - especially Mormon doctrine, history, and practice . . . because this is our focus.

Just as a loving doctor must, at times, cause pain in order to cure a patient, and a caring dentist may inflict suffering in order to remove dental decay and save a tooth, we would be remiss in our stance for biblical truth if we were not willing to relentlessly expose the fallacies of Mormon doctrine, history, and practice.

You've labeled it "anti-Mormon." I have never, ever been anti-Mormon. I am certainly "anti-Mormonism." There is a difference.

We will never soft-sell the gospel of Jesus Christ, but instead will relentlessly seek to decimate all the false notions men have introduced to good people as truth.

When the prophet Elijah was upon the earth he challenged the double minded children of Israel saying:

"How long will you stammer between two opinions?"

The people had a knowledge of the true and living God but were under

the sway of the pagan Priests of Baal.

In loving action for the children of Israel, Elijah challenged the priests of Baal to a God a contest between the pagan gods of Baal and the true and living God men had concocted.

Elijah suggested that both he and the priests of Baal slay two bulls, place them on a stack of wood, and see whose god would set them on fire.

The priests of Baal agreed to the challenge.

They set their offering out and started petitioning their false god to light it up.

They prayed and prayed and prayed.

Nothing.

Around noon, Elijah starts mocking their false beliefs – yes, my friends, mocking their false God. Why?
“because all false gods deserve to be mocked in light of the True and Living God.

Regarding their futile efforts He says to them:

(1st Kings 18:27) Cry aloud: for he is a god! Maybe he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked!

Of course the false gods of Baal failed. But my point is, Elijah got right in the kitchen of their falsehoods as a loving

<p>means to prove the existence of the true and living God to the children of Israel.</p> <p>There was no politically correctness. Just the living God pitted against the false pagan gods of Baal.</p> <p>Isaiah had a similar approach. Daniel, Jeremiah too.</p> <p>John the Baptist, the Lord, Peter, Paul did the same thing – with a similar attitude - but went after the false and vane religionists of His day, never treating dead religion with kindness.</p> <p>Alathea Ministries stands on the same platform – we share brutal truth because we care.</p> <p>And with this, let's pray.</p>	
<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>	
<p>We'll, it's April and we are in the midst of discussing LDS Church History, specifically Brigham Young.</p> <p>In order to effectively present some up and coming events that show the heart of Young and Mormonism at the time like the Morrissite Massacre and the Mountain Meadows massacre, I am re-reading the most important research and books on the subject and this is going to take a few weeks of preparation.</p> <p>In the meanwhile, I want to share something with you that I think is invaluable in understanding Mormonism.</p>	

<p>I personally believe it is so invaluable that I will at some point petition our board to allow us to distribute it out to you in a single page printed form.</p> <p>It's a recipe. A recipe for what I am calling "Mormon cake."</p> <p>Mormon cake consists of thirteen non-biblical ingredients. And like all recipes, these ingredients are added in and mixed together in a specific order, baked at certain temperature, and after an exact amount of time, it is frosted over with a thick white frosting.</p> <p>Each of the thirteen ingredients are essential to making and presenting Mormon Cake and the order in which they are used is vital to your understanding the prevailing LDS religion.</p> <p>Are you ready?</p> <p>Well let's first introduce the thirteen non-biblical ingredients then we will quickly address what the Bible teaches about each of these ingredients.</p>	
<p>The first ingredient - which perhaps represents the largest false ingredient in Mormon Cake - is the LDS construct that there is <i>"one true physical Church on the face of the earth."</i></p>	
<p>The second ingredient is that this "true Church" was <i>lost to a world-wide apostasy</i> shortly after Jesus</p>	

ascended into heaven.	
The third ingredient to “Mormon Cake” is that this one true Church <i>was restored back to the earth</i> through a man named Joseph Smith.	
The fourth ingredient is that <u>with</u> this restored religious institution came <i>a restored priesthood</i> .	
Fifth , a <i>prophet and apostles</i> who receive canonical revelation for this one true church are required.	
And the sixth ingredient, which is a truly special seasoning, says that a person <i>can know the truthfulness of these things by feelings that exist unattached to biblical truth</i> .	
The Seventh addition to the mix is a warmed cup of certainty no other church can provide by Biblical standards.	
Eighth , Mormon Cake includes a whipped up legacy of persecution, used as a binding agent for the other ingredients.	
Then the ninth ingredient, states that if you want to be acceptable to God, <i>there are attendant duties</i> and observances that <u>MUST</u> be kept as a member of this one true organization.	
Next, by doing and observing, Mormon Cake states that people then become worthy to enter into a restored temple which rites are essential to both living with God and becoming a god.	
Then by qualifying to enter this reconstructed, non-biblical temple, the eleventh ingredient states that your <i>marriage and family</i> are qualified to be together forever!	
“But Wait!” People might say at this	

point, “Doesn’t the Bible speak counter to all of these ingredients in the Mormon Cake?” Well, the twelfth ingredient saying that the <i>Bible cannot really be trusted</i> .	
This twelfth ingredient then makes it possible to add in the thirteenth which is that <i>more books of scripture and revelations</i> of men are required since the Bible is not wholly reliable.	
Finally, with all of these ingredients combined, the Mormon Cake is now ready to be baked for 24 hours at 365 degrees in a very special “ <i>Jesus is not enough</i> ” oven.	
<p>The end result:</p> <p>One of the most addictive, pernicious, counterfeit spiritual foods ever served to man.</p> <p>So as we examine half of these ingredients tonight before going to the phones, let me state here that we have done shows before on most of these individual ingredients.</p> <p>So on your screen, as the ingredient comes up, we are going to put the show number and year it was aired so you can get a more comprehensive review of the topic in addition to the information you receive tonight.</p> <p>Okay -</p>	
The first ingredient - which represents the largest false ingredient in Mormon Cake - is the LDS idea that there is “ <i>one true Church on the face of the earth</i> .”	This was the errant question that Joseph

	<p>Smith's grandfather, uncle, and father labored under most of their lives.</p> <p><i>What is the true church?</i></p> <p>It was all part of the "restorationist movement" of the early 19th century headed up by men like Alexander Campbell.</p> <p>The question is wrong from the get-go and sets the stage for a life of spiritual inaccuracy.</p> <p>First and most importantly, the Bible teaches that the Church is built of believers, not a single religious institution or building.</p> <p>The analogies often used in the Bible are the stones that make up a physical edifice – that since Christ came, God does not dwell in houses made with stones, but in believers themselves.</p> <p>Paul writes in Ephesians 2</p> <p><i>"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of <u>the</u> apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."</i></p> <p>Peter further clarifies in 1st Peter 2:5</p> <p><i>"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by</i></p>
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	<p><i>Jesus Christ."</i></p> <p>In the Book of Hebrews, the writer (probably Paul) wrote about houses. And he said that Moses was over his house, and then he speaks of the Christian house and says in Hebrews 3:6:</p> <p><i>"But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end."</i></p> <p>The question should NEVER have been and should NEVER be, "What Church is True." This only leads to manipulation and the deception of men.</p> <p>The Question should have been, and should always be, "Who, what and where is the Truth?</p> <p>And the answer to that is definitive and complete:</p> <p>Jesus is the Truth.</p> <p>And as believers in Him, we make up His Church regardless of the building in which we meet or congregate.</p>
<p>The second is that this "true Church that Jesus established on earth" was <i>lost to a world-wide apostasy</i> shortly after He ascended into heaven.</p>	<p>In the face of this second falsehood, let's remember the biblical definition for the Church of Jesus Christ – it is composed of men and women and children who</p>

	<p>have believed in Jesus in their heart and confessed with their mouths, have been born again, and have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit within them.</p> <p>Got it?</p> <p>So off the first false premise of Mormonism – “that there should be a singular edificial true Church on earth “ they posit another false argument that this edificial church fell into world wide apostasy.</p> <p>The likelihood that a single standing edificial church would go haywire is highly probable with men involved.</p> <p>So the LDS premise of world-wide apostasy seems, in this context, fairly reasonable – and let’s be clear here, the Mormon’s are speaking of Catholicism, which is another religion that claims the edificial approbation of God.</p> <p>But <i>biblically</i> speaking, the LDS suggestion of world wide apostasy is frankly ludicrous.</p> <p>First, we know that the Church is made of believers.</p> <p>Are they suggesting that there was not one single spirit filled believer in Christ left on earth by 1820 when Joseph began to restore “the true Church” to the earth?</p> <p>You’ve gotta be kidding! Read the histories and testimonies of some great men and women who faithfully knew and followed Jesus.</p> <p>Second, the Holy Spirit renews and</p>
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	<p>corrects errant teachings and man's misdirection when believers go awry.</p> <p>Are the LDS suggesting that the Holy Spirit lost control and influence in every human being alive? And that Joseph Smith was needed to save that which the Holy Spirit was unable to direct?</p> <p>Third, Jesus Himself said, "I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it."</p> <p>With 1500 years of prophetic history leading up to His birth, life, and death, twelve apostolic witnesses who were trained by Him and sent forth, with Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone of His spiritual edifice - and then the coming of the Holy Spirit which dwells permanently in the hearts of believers, are the LDS trying to suggest that God sent His Son in order to fail?</p> <p>They are.</p> <p>And they use passages of scripture from the Bible completely out of context to support this fantasy of a world wide apostasy.</p> <p>One of the favorites that the LDS missionaries use is 2nd Thessalonians 2:1.</p> <p>What the missionaries do is preface their reading the passage with a discussion that states that shortly after Jesus established His Church (and an actual physical building is implied here) that everything began to fall apart. They will say:</p> <p>"have you ever heard of the dark ages?</p>
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	<p>We'll all the truth was taken from the earth and there was no authority or priesthood left to act in God's name. Jesus church was lost."</p> <p>Then they quote 2nd Thessalonians, which says:</p> <p>3 ¶ <i>Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition."</i></p> <p>What they don't do is quote Thessalonians in context, which has <u>nothing</u> to do with a world-wide apostasy occurring and causing the need for a restoration.</p> <p>Listen to the context of the verses.</p> <p>Paul is talking about the second coming of Jesus Christ here. So start with verse one instead of four:</p> <p>2Th 2:1 ¶ <i>Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, <u>and</u> by our gathering together unto him,</i></p> <p>(so the context is the second coming and Jesus gathering His church of believers together) Paul continues</p> <p>2 <i>That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.</i></p> <p>(So he says, don't let people get you all riled up about Jesus returning)</p> <p>3 ¶ <i>Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except</i></p>
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	<p><i>there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;</i></p> <p>This is speaking of the <i>last days</i> before Jesus comes, not shortly after the Church was established!</p> <p>Paul says, Look, WHEN Jesus comes again there will be a falling away (not a world wide apostasy, by the way) and at that time a “man of sin” will be revealed as the son of perdition.</p> <p>The anti-Christ.</p> <p>When you see these things happen THEN you can tell the Lord’s return is near.</p> <p>Speaking of this anti-Christ who comes at the end, Paul says:</p> <p><i>4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.</i></p> <p>This is sound biblical exegesis.</p> <p>This is what the Bible says.</p> <p>The second ingredient is untrue, unbiblical, and a deception.</p>
<p>The third ingredient to “Mormon Cake” is that this one true Church <i>was restored back to the earth</i> through a man named Joseph Smith.</p>	<p>I’m not going to spend much time on this because we have spent the better part of three years on the man who claims to have restored the Church that was lost under the control of Jesus, the Father, and the Holy Spirit.</p>

	<p>Watch shows:</p> <p>But perhaps the most important aspect of this ingredient is this:</p> <p>It suggests that Joseph came and did what Jesus could not.</p> <p>That God sent Jesus to atone for sin, but it took Joseph and his followers to step forward and truly establish this edificial church.</p> <p>Do you believe that?</p> <p>Do you believe without Joseph Smith there would be no salvation?</p> <p>That is inferred wholesale into all things LDS.</p> <p>Just remember, in all of God's dealings with all His people throughout all time, He always had a remnant of believers who existed outside of the fallen.</p> <p>So even though the world did fall into apostasy and the Church of believers Jesus established was weak, it was not lost, and the gates of hell did not prevail against it.</p> <p>The fact of a remnant of believers is supported by the John the Beloveds description of the Church of Philadelphia in the Book of Revelation where he says:</p> <p><i>"I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name."</i></p>
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<p>The fourth ingredient is that with this restored church came <i>a restored priesthood</i>.</p>	<p>Again, we have spent numerous hours on the priesthood fallacies of Mormonism.</p> <p>Watch shows _____ for several in-depth examinations.</p> <p>But know this:</p> <p>The Bible – Old and New Testament – fully supports the Christian teaching that the Levitical Priesthood was for officiating in the temple of God and that Jesus and Jesus alone now stands as our high priest, after the order of Melchizedek (who I believe was an Old Testament type for Jesus to come) and there was no Melchizedek priesthood available to man.</p> <p>That people in the Bible was called and ordained in ways very different from what Mormonism says are required.</p>
<p>Fifth, with this accepted false priesthood the LDS claim there comes <i>a prophet and apostles</i> who receive canonical revelation for this one true edificial church.</p>	<p>Again, watch shows_____. But that being said, remember this:</p> <p>With regard to prophets, Hebrews 1:1 says:</p> <p>Hebrews 1:1 ¶ <i>“In times past the word of God came to our fathers through the prophets, in different parts and in different ways; but now, at the end of these days, it has come to us through his Son, to whom he</i></p>

	<p><i>has given all things for a heritage, and through whom he made the order of the generations."</i></p> <p>And with regard to apostles, remember that the twelve apostles were special witnesses of Jesus Christ, who were taught by Him, sent by Him, and wrote of Him as His special witnesses. When the apostolic age ended, and these special witnesses sealed their writings with their own blood – except for John – the age was complete.</p> <p>Apostles in the sense of being Jesus special witnesses ended with their special witnessing and their recording what they saw and did.</p> <p>I want to hear the LDS apostles all publicly state that they have seen and felt Jesus Christ as His special witness.</p>
<p>And the sixth ingredient, which we are going to close on tonight, and which is a truly special seasoning, says that a person <i>can know the truthfulness of these things by feelings that exist unattached to biblical truths.</i></p>	<p>This is an appeal to the senses for truth and direction. I can not think of a more unreliable, dangerous suggestion.</p> <p>It's not that our senses are worthless. We're complex creations and senses come in handy at times.</p> <p>But here is the catch – our senses MUST be in line with the manual for our senses to receive validation.</p> <p>I cannot sit up one morning and say that</p>

	<p>it is permissible to beat my neighbor to a pulp because I feel like it.</p> <p>Because God told me to do it.</p> <p>The Bible NEVER tells you to pray for feelings to know it is God's word – it tells you to trust it is.</p> <p>The Book of Mormon – in fact the whole of the Mormon operandi – suggests to see how you “feel” about truth.</p> <p>Feelings are the caboose to knowing.</p> <p>The engine to the train are the facts. The railcars are faith based on evidences. The caboose is feeling.</p> <p>Mormonism has the caboose of feelings at the front of the train, faith in those feelings behind it, and lastly facts.</p>
<p>Next week, we'll finish laying out the recipe for Mormon Cake compared with the recipe for the Lord's Bread of Life.</p> <p>Let's go to the phone lines:</p> <p>(801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p> <p>First time callers please LDS callers preferably. Turn down your televisions sets Let's try and be to the point.</p>	
Emails	

Reminder of Partners. 888 868-HOTM	

<p>LIVE! From the “Mecca of Mormonism” SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH This is <u>Heart of the Matter</u>!</p> <p><i>“Where Mormonism Meets Christianity Face to Face.”</i></p>	<p><i>Show 17 Mormon Cake – Part II April 28th 2009</i></p> <p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>If you have family or friends who can’t watch HEART OF THE MATTER through the available television channels – which include cable and dish – they can go to HOTM.TV and watch LIVE through streaming video from anywhere in the world.</p> <p>WWW.HOTM.TV</p>	
<p><i>I Was a Born-Again Mormon</i> is out of print – temporarily. We are working on a third printing as we speak.</p> <p>You may find copies available still at Christian Bookstores here in Utah.</p>	
<p>Remember we meet every Sunday afternoon for a Bible Study class.</p> <p>At 2:30 at the UofU and then at 7:00pm at Utah State.</p> <p>Go to www.calvarycampus.com for more information.</p>	
<p>Additionally, The Ezekiel Project will begin on Wednesday night, May ____ in Ogden.</p> <p>Go to Calvarycampus.com or _____.tv for times and location.</p> <p>An important part of our ministry is to offer verse by verse Bible study</p>	

<p>courses throughout the state of Utah and we hope you will take advantage of them.</p>	
<p>Hey, let's give you a date for you to consider.</p> <p>Saturday July 11th 2009</p> <p>Just outside Logan Utah in the _____ river, we will be holding our annual outdoor open-water baptism.</p> <p>Any and all who profess Jesus as Lord are welcome to come on down to the river and be baptized.</p> <p>Now I can do the baptism, or you can have someone else do it – your pastor, or husband, or friend – we don't care.</p> <p>It's just a time to follow the Lord and express your inward faith in Him in an outward public profession.</p> <p>I gotta tell you, it is a highlight for us to participate.</p> <p>So again, Saturday, July 11 (7/11) up in Cache Valley.</p> <p>Go to www.hotm.tv for more information.</p> <p>After the baptism, we will retire to a beautiful home in the area for fellowship, food and fun.</p> <p>Please join us – for whatever reason that is good.</p>	
	<p>You are probably not aware of this but our ministry goals are, simply put, to :</p>

	<p>REACH, TEACH and SERVE in the name of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>In Los Angeles, California there is a place called the Dream Center, which serves to gather donations and then distribute them out to the needy community at large.</p> <p>In 2000, a man named Alfred Morillo and his wife, , came to Utah and planted the Utah Dream Center, which does the same, plus a whole lot more.</p> <p>As a means to help serve the physical needs of the people of Utah, Alatheia Ministries will use part of our airtime to promote the Utah Dream Center.</p> <p>They are a viable alternative to giving to Deseret Industries, which is owned by the LDS church.</p> <p>Every Tuesday morning, the Utah Dream Center receives</p>
We ended last week with a call from	

a guy who challenged my referring to the thief on the cross as “not going to heaven” because Jesus had not yet ascended to the Father yet, with the Father presumably in heaven.

From his LDS mind, he was trying to infer that when Jesus said to the thief on the cross “today you will be with me in Paradise” that this was not heaven, and because it was not heaven, or where the Father was, we could not infer that the thief went to heaven.

By making this argument, the caller was trying to build a case that the thief on the cross would have to remain in a state absent from God and Heaven until he received a vicarious ordinance of baptism – which the LDS claim is required to enter heaven – and this vicarious ordinance for the dead would then enable him to go to heaven.

By making this argument, it would support the erroneous LDS belief that 1) baptism is necessary for salvation, and since the thief wasn’t baptized, the only way for him to receive this baptism is through the LDS sanctioned act of baptism for the dead.

Now, when Jesus said today you will be with me in paradise, the word literally refers to a beautiful and peaceful garden. Paradise is a Persian word.

In the Septuagint – which is the Greek translation of the Old

Testament – it uses this word
Paradise with the word Eden –

“God planted a paradise in Eden,” is
how it reads.

The word invokes a garden of great
pleasure, filled with trees, and
shrubs, and fountains, and flowers.

The word came to denote any place
of happiness, and was used
particularly to denote the abodes of
the blessed in another world.

The Romans spoke of their Elysium,
and the Greeks of their gardens of
Hesperides.

This name paradeisos in the
Scriptures comes to denote the
abodes of the blessed in the other
world.

Now, the dead prior to the ascension
of Christ were held in a place called
sheol – a place that was both good
and bad.

The good place of sheol was where
all the prophets and faithful of the
Old Testament went.

In the story of the rich man and
Lazarus, it is likened to Abraham’s
bosom.

Once Jesus cleared the way through
atonement and the propitiation of
sin, all that were in paradise went to
heaven.

Absent with the body, present with

the Lord.

But even with this pre-ascension exception in place, heaven is still equated with paradise in scripture.

Neither Abraham, or Isaiah, or Daniel, or David required the LDS ordinance of vicarious baptism to enter paradise or heaven – their faith was enough.

As was the faith of the thief on the cross.

In 2nd Co 12:3-4 Paul writes:

“I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) How that he was caught up into paradise (paradeisos) and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.”

This word here is the same word Jesus used with the thief on the cross.

In Revelation 2:7, it reads:

“To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.”

This is the same Paradeisos Jesus used with the thief on the cross.

Within the context of the whole of scripture – which is what makes for a sound hermeneutic of the Word and protects us from the baloney of men – we know the following about paradise:

<p>1. That immediately after death--the same day--the souls of the righteous will be made happy. They will feel that they are secure; they will be received among the just; and they will have the assurance of a glorious immortality.</p> <p>They are not there waiting for more work to be done for them.</p> <p>Prior to the finished work of Jesus, it was a heavenly place as it was provided by God Himself for the faithful.</p> <p>All who were there were in heaven once Jesus finished His work--nothing else required!</p> <p>The Word supports this from Genesis 2:8, Luke 23:43, 2nd Corinthians 12:3-4, and Revelation 2:7.</p> <p>You know, it's not difficult to make up fables using only part of the Word of God.</p> <p>You or I could take any passage of scripture and teach something false about it.</p> <p>This is why it is so important to let the Bible interpret itself - and not Man.</p>	
<p>I have never witnessed a healing miracle in my life - until last week.</p> <p>A Christian man named Balthazar Rizzo was working when he passed</p>	

out. Balthazar would often attend Calvary-Campus Bible study in Logan with his thirteen year old son, Thomas.

There was no heart beat and he was given CPR and airvac-ed to an Ogden Hospital where he was placed on life support.

On my way home from the Logan Bible study last week I stopped in at the hospital to see him and his family.

Many, many Christians from his community up in Logan had been there that day praying over Balthazar.

I learned from his wife that the doctors were not giving Balthazar much in terms of hope.

Serious brain damage was the operative word from the neurologist.

Thomas took me up to see his Dad. I have never seen a man on lifesupport before, and was astounded by all the gadgetry to which Balthazar was hooked up.

Like all the other Christians who knew and loved Balthazar, I added my prayers as his young son Thomas and I stood there in the room.

When we finished, I asked young Thomas that if he and his Dad were standing here looking down on someone they loved, what would his Dad say to him.

<p>Thomas said:</p> <p>“To trust God.”</p> <p>Profound and powerful words from a young boy looking down on his very sick father.</p> <p>Two nights ago, when I returned to Logan, I learned that Balthazar “woke” from his coma and started speaking – clearly and coherently.</p> <p>On Sunday Morning he wrote a letter to the brothers and sisters of his church!</p> <p>This is what it said:</p> <p>(READ LETTER)</p> <p>There was no priesthood of man involved here, my friends, but a fulfillment of scripture, namely</p> <p>James 5:15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up.</p> <p>And with this, let’s have a prayer.</p>	
<p>Last week we introduced a recipe for a food we’ve called “Mormon Cake.”</p> <p>The ingredients are progressive as they build upon each other.</p> <p>Quickly, they consisted of the following ingredients:</p>	
<p>1. The fallacious initial construct which states that there is “<i>one true physical Church on the face of the</i></p>	

<i>earth."</i>	
2. That this "true Church" was <i>lost to a world-wide apostasy</i> .	
3. This one true Church <i>was restored back to the earth</i> through a man named Joseph Smith.	<p>Shows 6, 9, and 10 from 2007 cover the supposed first Vision of Joseph Smith.</p> <p>And with this unneeded restoration of the false premise of one true physical church, there was then (which makes up our forth ingredient)</p>
4. a <i>restored (but false) priesthood that Joseph introduced later</i> .	<p>We left off here last week.</p> <p>Shows 40 and 41 of 2006 and Show 21 of 2007 cover this supposed restoration of these Priesthoods.</p> <p>The fifth ingredient for Mormon Cake is that with this restored Priesthood came . . .</p>
5. . . . <i>prophet and apostles</i> .	<p>Now when the LDS say they have a Prophet, they mean they have a prophet who is like unto Moses – one that receives revelation for the whole world.</p> <p>Joseph Smith Jr. claimed to be the first and Thomas S. Monson is the present.</p> <p>Because of time and the fact that we've covered this topic in shows 38 of 2006 and Show 20 of 2008, I will not go into details to refute the claim.</p> <p>THE BIBLE SUFFICIENTLY HANDLES</p>

	<p>THIS, my friends. But if you don't believe me, go to our archives at www.hotm.tv and watch show 38 from 2006 and/or show 20 from 2008.</p> <p>And let me conclude with Hebrews 1:1</p> <p>Heb 1:1 <i>"God, who at many times and in many ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds."</i></p> <p>How can you call Monson a prophet in the face of God's Word?</p> <p>And then the ludicrous claims of the "twelve" apostles!</p> <p>Show # 19 of 2008 covers this topic in depth.</p> <p>But aside from all the biblical texts that prove they are not apostles like the apostles Jesus had, I want to know one thing:</p> <p>Have they seen Jesus? And if they have, why don't they proclaim it to the world –even to the loss of their lives – like His Apostles did?</p>
<p>6. The sixth ingredient - which we called a truly special seasoning, says that a person <i>can know the truthfulness of these things by feelings which exist outside of biblical truth.</i></p>	<p>Again, we have talked ad nauseum on the show about the LDS way of knowing truth – and how unreliable it is.</p>

	<p>Shows 7 and 41 of 2007 are all about the trappings of LDS knowing and feelings.</p> <p>But let me summarize by comparing the Christian train of epistemology and the LDS train.</p> <p>CHRISTIAN</p> <p>Facts Faith Feelings</p> <p>* God does not ask you to believe in a vacuum.</p> <p>HEBREWS 11:1</p> <p><i>"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."</i></p> <p>MORMONISM</p> <p>Feelings Faith Facts</p> <p>Mormonisms version of faith much more closely follows Nietzsche's definition than God's, which is</p> <p>"Faith mean not wanting to know the truth."</p> <p>(Do monkey signs).</p> <p>Following this formula of "knowing by feelings," the LDS are then fed a bunch of doctrinal certainties (which the Bible doesn't address) which induce more warm feelings of comfort.</p> <p>This is the seventh ingredient.</p>
7. ("warm certainties")	<p>These include man-made answers to</p>

	<p>“Where did we come from?” “Why are we here” and “Where are we going once we die.”</p> <p>Mormonism also tells you without hesitation that you lived eternally before coming to earth.</p> <p>That you are a spirit child of God the Father and a Heavenly Mother, a spirit brother or sister of Jesus who chose right and a spirit brother or sister of Satan who chose wrong.</p> <p>It tells you about sacred books from Golden plates and Egyptian funeral texts, about taking on more wives to become a god, and shedding blood for sins Jesus blood couldn’t cover.</p> <p>And there are many, many more!</p> <p>Using your new found ability to know truth, you turn to your own mind and heart to discern these teachings – and you find them inviting.</p>
<p>We said that the 8th ingredient to making Mormon Cake includes a whipped up legacy of persecution.</p>	<p>They are still playing this card every chance they get.</p> <p>It is so hyped up and inflated, so taken out of historical context that you’d think there was a Mormon holocaust.</p> <p>I have long asked:</p> <p>How many people lost their lives because they were LDS?</p> <p>Give me a number?</p>

	<p>Then, how many lives have the Mormon's taken?</p> <p>Put this on the scales with the same questions about true and faithful Christians.</p> <p>First of all, no true Christian would ever take life in the name of Jesus.</p> <p>Secondly, millions upon millions upon millions have had their lives lost for Jesus.</p> <p>According to letusreason.org it is estimated that world wide, a minimum of 150,000 Christians die every year for their faith!</p> <p>Hundreds of thousands are imprisoned.</p> <p>North Korea and Kim Jong Il are some of the worst repressors of Christians.</p> <p>Islamic radicals kill Christians daily all around the world.</p> <p>How many of the faithful LDS have died for their faith and how many faithful LDS have taken lives.</p> <p>Once the persecution legacy has been properly whipped up to a frothy frenzy, we are ready for ingredient number 9 -</p>
<p>9. which states that if you want to be acceptable to God, <i>there are attendant duties</i> and observances that you <u>MUST</u> keep to be worthy of membership in this true church.</p>	<p>You see, you have been privy to having the restored gospel and restored</p>

	<p>priesthood and restored truths in your life, and so many who have come before you have died for the cause, that you are obligated to God and the Church to live obediently.</p> <p>Can you hear the chains and locks being dragged across the floor toward you?</p> <p>This means incorporating a litany of duties and observance into your life IN ORDER – IN ORDER – to be pleasing to God.</p> <p>Then, we come to ingredient 10, which . . .</p>
<p>10. States that by your doing all they tell you to do, you actually “become worthy” to go into a restored temple and do more rites and rituals that are essential to living with God and actually becoming a god in the hereafter.</p>	<p>Now, again, we have covered the false restored temple game in shows 36, 37, 39, and 40 in 2007 and in shows 16 in 2006.</p> <p>Bottom line, however:</p> <p>The temple of the Jews was always and only in one place – and remains to be rebuilt in this same place today – on Mount Moriah.</p> <p>And in these temples, the things they did have little to no reflection whatsoever on what Mormons do in their temples today.</p> <p>When Jesus died, the temple veil was ripped by God from the top to the</p>

	<p>bottom, signifying the end to temples and animal sacrifice and Joseph Smith tacked the veil right back up.</p> <p>Check out those programs for more on this topic.</p>
<p>The 11th ingredient states that by being worthy to go to the new fangled LDS temple, your <i>marriage and family</i> can be together forever!</p>	<p>Another construct of Man presented to soothe the human heart in the place where God ought to give the reassurances.</p> <p>And then when a person might ask:</p> <p>“Why doesn’t the Bible teach any of this stuff?” we are introduced to the 12th ingredient to Mormon Cake which says:</p>
<p>12. “. . . that even though <i>the Bible speaks counter to all of these ingredients</i>” <i>the Bible cannot really be trusted.</i></p>	<p>We’ve covered this topic heavily too, my friends.</p> <p>In 2006, watch shows 5 and 20. In 2007, watch show 2. In 2008, shows 49, 50, 51, and 52.</p> <p>You see, when anyone or any church can cast any doubt on the Word of God in your mind, IT is then in a place to fill the gap caused by the doubt with what it wants.</p> <p>This is the game of all things not of God.</p> <p>He gave us His word as our manual.</p> <p>Every element of the world will say, “Don’t read it. Don’t trust it. Don’t</p>

	<p>believe it.”</p> <p>Every cultic leader will tell you to listen to his or her interpretation of it – instead of what the Bible says of itself – and will then provide you with what it is lacking.</p> <p>Run like hell from anything or anyone that mocks or demeans the Bible.</p> <p>Run.</p> <p>This brings us to the second to the last ingredient in Mormon Cake</p>
<p>13. Then promise that there are <i>more books of scripture and revelations</i> available that you need in addition to the Bible (which can’t be trusted).</p>	<p>Talk about shows ad nauseum!</p> <p>Show #18 in 2006 and Shows 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, and 20 in 2007!</p> <p>This then squarely places your relationship with God into the hands of mortal men.</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>Because within Mormonism, modern revelation and men placed in authority over you take precedence over everything else.</p> <p>Salvation is no placed on your allegiance to a religion.</p> <p>To your doing religious rites.</p> <p>To your obedience to men – to their ideas, their opinions, their inspirations, and their revelations.</p> <p>Take all of these ingredients, mix them</p>

	<p>so thoroughly that your head will spin just in an effort to refute them, and pour them out into a giant cultural pan and you are ready to be cooked.</p> <p>Which is the final step in making Mormon Cake.</p>
<p>Take your mix and bake it in a special, <i>"Jesus is not enough"</i> oven.</p>	<p>Available only through religions made by the constructs and ideas of Man.</p> <p>You see, these ovens are the only ones equipped to properly cook all these false ingredients together into one cohesive cake.</p> <p>Because when the heat of Jesus is not enough fires up, it is endless, relentless, and torrential.</p> <p>In the Jesus is not enough ovens the fire is not ever quenched.</p> <p>And the smoke ascends up forever and ever.</p> <p>And the worms that will ultimately make their way into the ingredients never die.</p>
<p>Let's open up the phone lines.</p> <p>(801) 973-8820 (801) 973-TV20</p> <p>First time / LDS preferred / turn thy TV sets down.</p> <p>FIRST, a very important announcement.</p>	

<p>LIVE! From the “Mecca of Mormonism” SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH This is <u>Heart of the Matter</u>!</p> <p><i>“Where Mormonism Meets Christianity Face to Face.”</i></p>	<p><i>Show 15 Mountain Meadows Massacre – Part I May 5th Cinco de Mayo! 2009</i></p> <p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>If you have family or friends who cannot watch the show through one of the many television avenues – including cable, dish, and broadcast – have them go to www.hotm.tv and they can watch the show live through streaming video from anywhere in the world!</p>	
<p>Spent a wonderful evening with some people from Christ Evangelical Church last night down in Orem with Pastor Scott McKinney.</p> <p>We have long supported Christ EV in Orem as the go-to church in that area and let me give you one reason why:</p> <p>When you walk into Christ EV on Sunday, Mormonism is not discussed.</p> <p>What is? Biblical Christianity.</p> <p>Why is this important?</p> <p>Ministries like Utah Lighthouse and ours are here to discuss Mormonism. We’ll do the dirty work, so to speak.</p> <p>But worshipping the Lord, and learning the Word, and fellowshiping with like-minded believers is what will remove all the error of Mormonism from you mind and heart and place you on a sound footing with Jesus.</p>	

<p>In addition to Christ EV, we're stand behind any and every church which takes the same approach here in Utah.</p>	
<p>Over a year ago we began challenging people to send in letters to have their names removed from the records of the LDS Church.</p> <p>We called it project Abandon Ship!</p> <p>The response has been interesting to say the least.</p> <p>First, we have seen a number of people take action AND we have watched how this has helped them and not hurt.</p> <p>We've also heard from a number of people from the LDS side who have actually thanked me for performing this service for the Church.</p> <p>What they mean by this is those who "abandon ship" are in most cases dead weight to the church so when we get them off the records it helps God's True Church function more efficiently.</p> <p>Aren't you glad Jesus did have this attitude toward the dead weight of the word - He never would have gone to the cross if He had!</p> <p>We also receive an occasional email or call from someone who is an inactive Latter-day Saint who wants to know why Abandoning Ship even matters.</p> <p>"Why even acknowledge that they have any say in my life at all?" seems to be the general sentiment.</p>	

Let me share a couple of thoughts on this for whatever they're worth.

FIRST and FOREMOST, taking your name off the records is a personal decision between you and God. Whatever the two of you decide, so be it.

This being said, I am personally all for people taking their names off LDS membership rolls for the following reasons:

- 1) It sends a message loud and clear. It allows you to state that in no uncertain terms you don't want to be LDS anymore and WHY. This act, in and of itself, MAY cause some things to change for people who remain behind.
- 2) It can be an act of liberation. For many people, it is an almost symbolic gesture that says, "I am removing all things Mormon from my life." This seems to be the greatest benefit from people who have Abandoned Ship as the single most expressed sentiment from them is they are FREE!
- 3) It makes an important statement to your family. Maybe it will be your parents, or a sibling, or maybe nieces or nephews down the road. You will never know who will find courage because of your actions in the future - and too be freed.
- 4) It creates work for those doing the name removal within the church. It means they must write letters, make contact with you,

<p>possibly invite you to interviews with them. In this work, there are opportunities to share and plant seeds in those with whom you are speaking and communicating.</p> <p>5) Finally, I think when we step forward and act in faith, even in some things that seem insignificant, it can open us up to vistas we never knew existed.</p> <p>Give it some thought. And if you are so inclined by God – ABANDON SHIP!</p> <p>Go to www.UTLM.org Or www.bornagainmormon.com for more information on how to do it.</p>	
<p>I am of the opinion that there are a number of tactics and strategies the LDS church leadership presently employ to appear more Christian.</p> <p>But what I am about to read from the SL Trib I BELIEVE is an awesome step in the right direction.</p> <p>One of the reasons I am supportive of this is because the drive is coming from a single Mormon scholar, whose mind I respect from other writings I've read of his in years past.</p> <p>His name is Robert Rees.</p> <p>It seems a Cal State Sacramento historian just finished his master's thesis on the use of the cross in early Mormon history and shows how it was used sparsely within the church back then.</p> <p>Around the turn of the 20th Century all</p>	

that changed when the cross became the symbol of anti-Catholic sentiments within Mormonism.

The article says this negative opinion of the cross was institutionalized in the 1950's by LDS president David O McKay.

Later on, LDS President Joseph Fielding Smith compared the cross to a guillotine and called it a "tool of execution" - which it was, and the spiritually twisted LDS Apostle Bruce R. McConkie equated the cross, states the article, "with the Bible's satanic "mark of the beast."

See what happens when you trust the opinions of men as modern day revelation? You end-up despising something the Bible presents as an icon essential to our eternal salvation!

Enter Robert Rees.

He is kind of on a one man campaign to get the LDS to embrace the use of the cross.

Rees points out in his research that the strongest opposition to the cross within Mormonism was formalized in the 1950's by President and Prophet David O McKay who was concerned with Catholic influences in Utah, amongst other things.

In 1957, he made the statement that it was not proper for LDS girls to wear it on their jewelry, saying the cross is "purely Catholic."

This opposition to the cross became

Church policy.

From what I've read, it appears that Brother Rees wants to see LDS people wear the cross because of his love for what it represents.

I support his efforts whole-heartedly.

And while a lot of changes must be made to LDS doctrine, I can't help but believe that this grass roots campaign will help facilitate a change of heart within the LDS people themselves.

Why?

How does the Bible say we ought to view the cross?

With all due respect.

1st Corinthians 1:17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, *lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.*

1st Corinthians 1:18 For *the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*

Galatians 5:11 speaks of "the offence of the cross."

Galatians 6:12 speaks of suffering persecution *for the cross of Christ.*

Galatians 6:14 But God forbid that I should glory, *save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world*

<p>is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.</p> <p>Ephesians 2:16 Speaks of reconciling us in one body <i>by the cross</i></p> <p>Philippians 3:18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the <i>enemies of the cross of Christ</i>.</p> <p>Don't continue to be one of those who "walk" but are enemies of the "Cross of Christ." It is a glorious symbol of His love and the unbelievable gift He has freely offered for our eternal life.</p>	
<p>And with that, let's have a prayer.</p>	
<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>	<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>
<p>Well tonight we begin our examination of the Mormon Mountain Meadows Massacre.</p> <p>I think it is important to add yet another "M" word to this alliteration to make it clear who was in charge – the Mormons.</p> <p>A lot has been said and done in the ugly wake of this horrific event – so much so that you may even wonder why we would go to the trouble of covering it again.</p> <p>Several wonderfully researched books have been written on the subject – two that I will use throughout our program are from the hands of LDS authors Juanita Brooks and Will Bagley.</p>	

There have been major motion pictures about it, TV news coverage on it, and a plethora of magazine and newspaper articles composed over the years.

What can we add to our examination of the event that has not already been revealed?

First, we will consistently suggest that the Mormon Mountain Meadows Massacre was the direct result of Mormon Doctrine – doctrine which has NOT changed even to this day.

As the screen says:
(ON BOARD)

Doctrine creates values.

Values form the heart.

The heart produces words.

Words drive actions.

or as a good friend says,

“We act out what we believe, not what we know.”

Secondly, we will consistently suggest that what happened at the Mormon Mountain Meadows Massacre was the result of a series of situations, events, and teachings which came solely from the culture of Mormonism. We will remind the audience that those who constructed the plan, initiated the actions, and ultimately finished the job were FAITHFUL Latter-day Saints.

They were not an aberrant off-shoot sect or rebellious, outskirt members of the Church at the time.

<p>They were Bishops, Stake Presidents, and local, abiding, temple endowed members of the LDS faith.</p> <p>This cannot be forgotten.</p> <p>We will never prove whether Brigham Young authorized the killings or not.</p> <p>We will suggest he was, as Juanita Brooks put it, that he was “an accessory” to the crime.</p> <p>But we cannot forget that those who were involved in the plan were the most faithful members of the Church in that area at the time.</p> <p>We will also place the decision making for the massacre itself within a documented historical context of Mormonism, meaning that often prior to making any serious decisions regarding the taking of innocent life the LDS men involved would “pray and ask the holy Spirit” to ratify their actions.</p> <p>Finally, we hope to show and warn that if LDS doctrine has not changed - even to this day - then neither has the true Mormon heart, and we suggest that as history tends to repeat itself, another “Mormon Mountain Meadows Massacre” of sorts waits in the wings of the future, and on a potentially much larger scale.</p>	
<p>So let’s review the Mormon Mountain Meadows Massacre - what contributed to it, who was involved in it, what occurred, and what the response to it has been over the last 152 years.</p>	

<p>As we go through all of this, I think it is really, really important for you to remember that the Mormon Mountain Meadows Massacre, which occurred on 9/11 of 1857, would NOT have happened had Joseph Smith not claimed to have received revelations from God - in the same way that the World Trade Centers would not have fallen on 9/11 of 2001 had other men not claimed to represent God's will when they didn't.</p> <p>When men step in where God has not, the result is always death of innocence, and of the innocent.</p>	
<p>On the first day of Spring of 1857 hundreds of men, women, and children gathered at Beller's Stand in Carol County, Arkansas, in anticipation to make the long trek west to California.</p> <p>Hustling and bustling among the travelers was a well-to-do (by the standards of the day) team which we will call the Francher Party, named after one of the leaders of the train and his family.</p> <p>Myth and rumor have attempted to paint the Francher party as a wild bunch of ruffians, but there are a number of reasons to believe these rumors as untrue.</p> <p>Traveling over the continent was a very expensive proposition in those days, costing a family somewhere between forty and fifty thousand dollars in today's dollars.</p>	

Additionally, LDS historian Will Bagley states that while most gold rush trains were predominantly men, of the Francher train which had about 140 people, "50 of these were children under sixteen years of age" and there were also a great percentage of women.

Finally, most of the people – especially those in family units, were in all probability practicing Christians.

Says Bagley:

"Many witnesses commented on the piety of the emigrants."

To help paint a clearer picture of the Francher party, in addition to travel costs, most every family brought with them an abundance of personal treasure to use and trade once they arrived in California.

One of these families, the Mitchell's, are said to have carried at least \$50,000.00 worth of goods.

To top it all off, the Francher train also drove an enormous group of fine cattle to the west – most likely over 600 head.

Now around the same time that the Arkansas group began stirring up dust, two major contributors to their coming deaths were taking place.

The first was the murder of Apostle Parley P. Pratt in the state of Arkansas.

Pratt was in San Francisco when he met a woman named Eleanor McClean.

Parley P. Pratt was an original Apostle in the Church and the husband of eleven wives. When he met Eleanor she was married to an abusive husband named Hector McClean.

As a younger person Eleanor was very attracted to the LDS faith, having been introduced to it in her home state of Louisiana.

Though attracted to the LDS church, Eleanor's husband refused to allow her to be baptized a member, but she later rebelled and joined the church.

Shortly thereafter, Eleanor met original Church apostle Parley P. Pratt. It seems Pratt tried to bring reconciliation to Hector and Eleanor's marriage but only inflamed the tension within when he chose to secretly baptize the couples two eldest sons.

This infuriated Hector.

Fearful that Eleanor would run off to Utah with his children, Hector secretly smuggled all the McClean children out of the state by steamboat to their grandparents back in Louisiana. He told Eleanor he sent them

"where she and the cursed Mormons can never see them again."

A month later Hector paid for Eleanor to go to Louisiana to see their children, where they were *"closely guarded at all times lest she tried to take the children"* away to Utah.

Well she made a break to escape with

the kids but was caught before she could get out of the city. It was then her parents told her they would finance her trip out to Utah if she would leave the children there with them.

She took the money and ran to the territory called Deseret .

She arrived on September 11th 1855 and found work at . . . guess? None other than Apostle Parley P. Pratt's home - as a schoolteacher.

Bagley reports:

"Without the benefits of a divorce, Brigham Young sealed Eleanor McClean to Pratt for time and all eternity on November 14th 1855 in the Salt Lake City endowment house as the apostles twelfth wife."

Jump ahead to a year later (to 1856) when Pratt and his new bride Eleanor were called to a mission in the eastern states.

Along the way, Eleanor split off from her husband so she could go and collect her children from Louisiana - which she did - taking them first to Texas, and hoping to rendezvous there with Pratt in the future.

But hell hath no fury like a man scorned.

By this time Hector, Eleanor's lawful husband, was hell-bent on getting revenge.

Long story short, Hector tracked Pratt

down and on the border of Arkansas, shot and stabbed him from horseback, leaving him for dead.

This was in the Spring of 1857 – the same Spring the Francher party was traveling west from Arkansas.

They did not know or have anything to do with “Apostle” Pratt or his death.

The news of Apostle Pratt’s “martyrdom” quickly reached Utah.

An LDS newspaper in California mourned Pratt as a true martyr and warned that “God” would show up at some point in revenge.

The paper waxed on like the voice from God, saying:

“Upon this generation shall come all the righteous blood which has been shed from the time of Jesus to the present.”

Unfortunately, Hector, the killer of Pratt, openly boasted that the killing of Pratt was *“the best act of his life,”* and added in a horribly exaggerated generalization *“that the people of west Arkansas agree with me.”*

This statement would not do much for the Francher party that would within months pass through Parley P. Pratt’s home territory of Deseret.

Interestingly enough a secular newspaper in California speculated with great accuracy when it wondered

in print, if there would be any repercussions from Brigham Young for Apostle Pratt's murder. It asked:

"Whether the hot blood which now be seething and boiling in the veins of Brigham Young and his satellites at Salt Lake would be cooled by the murder of Gentiles who passed through their territory."

In light of everything I've read, I would say it was.

The second event that would contribute to the Francher party being butchered was the fact that the United States government was on it's way to invade Brigham Young's territory and restore what they felt was a people and a leader who had become a law unto themselves.

According to Bagley, after hearing a speech on Pioneer Day in 1850, an emigrant reported that the Mormon leaders *"prophesied the total overthrow of the United States Government was at hand, and that the whole nation would soon be at the feet of the Mormons, suing for mercy and protection."*

Such talk was and still is terrifying to a people who want to live free of despots and tyranny of any kind.

A Presbyterian minister who had spent the winter of 1850 in the Utah territory reported

"that on the face of the earth there is

not another people found so completely under the control of one man, soul, body, and property, as are the Mormons to Brigham Young."

Bagley adds that:

"Sojourners who witnessed (the LDS) fierce devotion left Utah convinced the Saints would do anything their leaders ordered."

We will soon see that their opinion of Brigham Young and the Saints was true – even to the point of killing children who begged for their lives.

As a result of reports and opinions like these, and the additional charges that the Mormons were forming "alliances with the western tribes" and "stimulating them into acts of hostility," President Buchanan came to the conclusion that in order to protect the union from the Mormons - and to even save the Mormons from Young's tyranny and outlaw band of "Destroying Angels," he would send troops.

On May 20th of 1857, the same Spring the Francher Party headed west, U.S. President Buchanan sent troops toward Utah along with a replacement for Young. "

Their orders?

"To insure the establishment and maintenance of law and order."

Would a truly Christian community,

based on love of Jesus, obeying the Bible, and worshipping God in peace ever need such intervention?

In July of 1857, Pioneer Day to be exact, a special meeting was called by Brigham Young.

There 2500 of the most faithful and committed Saints gathered in Big Cottonwood Canyon just outside the Salt Lake basin.

A bugle called the people together at sunset. And though their exact remarks do not survive, the Deseret News reported that when it was announced that the US government had cancelled their contract to deliver mail and that 2500 soldiers were headed their way, bringing them a new governor and set of judges, a “scene of madness and confusion followed.”

I would imagine, in some respects, it would have been a similar response found in Waco, Guyana, and Jonestown when news of infiltration was announced.

Brigham Young announced that the people constituted a free and independent state, to be known no longer as Utah, but by their own Mormon name of Deseret.

Heber Kimball called on all the people to “adhere to Brigham Young as their prophet, seer, revelator, priest, governor, and king.”

And they did.

<p>Within two months the Francher party would experience first hand what kind of kingdom this king had established.</p> <p>Let's open up the phone lines and get the operators going –</p> <p>(801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p> <p>Before taking your calls, we're going to pause for an important message that we will be running for the next six weeks.</p> <p>Thanks for watching.</p> <p>(SPOT)</p> <p>Hey, listen . . .</p> <p>This is our third week of running this spot and the response has been building.</p> <p>We thank each of you who have been inclined by the Lord to come along side us at this time with your support.</p> <p>You know who you are.</p> <p>We've got a ways to go to establish our long term sustainability, but I just want to personally thank each and every one of you who have come forward.</p> <p>Because of your actions, we can see light at the end of the tunnel – and it's not a freight train.</p> <p>Alright . . .</p> <p>Emails? Phone calls?</p>	
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<p>LIVE!</p> <p>From the “Mecca of Mormonism”</p> <p>SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH</p> <p>This is <u>Heart of the Matter</u>!</p> <p><i>“Where Mormonism Meets Christianity Face to Face.”</i></p>	<p><i>Show 19 Mormon Mountain Meadows Massacre – part II May 12th 2009</i></p>
	<p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>If you have family or friends who cannot watch the show through one of the many television avenues – including cable, dish, and broadcast – have them go to www.hotm.tv and they can watch the show live through streaming video from anywhere in the world!</p>	
<p>So we welcome our Podcast viewers, our streaming viewers, our YouTube viewers, and those of you who watch on the archives.</p> <p>The Lord has taken this obscure little local program all over the world – we praise His name, and thank you for watching and sharing Heart of the Matter with your friends and family.</p>	
<p>We have a great friend to the ministry, Reed, who is quite aphoristic in his thoughts and delivery.</p> <p>Last week Reed was asked by a member of the Mormon Church if he believed the Book of Mormon to be the Word of God.</p> <p>Reed’s response was a classic. It should be used by everyone. He said:</p> <p><i>“I believe the Book of Mormon to be</i></p>	

<p><i>the Word of God as long as it has been plagiarized correctly.” ☺</i></p> <p>Classic.</p>	
<p>For those of you who don’t realize it, the Book of Mormon tells the tale of Jesus coming to the Americas, and the actual gospel of Jesus Christ being here upwards of 600 years before the birth of Christ!</p> <p>Here’s ather fantastic insight from a resident Bible student and friend, Brandon P.</p> <p>He sent me this reference and wrote:</p> <p>“Sure puts a damper on the LDS theology about the America’s.”</p> <p>What was the passage?</p> <p>Psalms 147:19-20</p> <p><i>“He sheweth his word unto Jacob, his statutes and his judgments unto Israel. <u>He hath not dealt so with any nation: and as for his judgments, they have not known them.</u> Praise ye the LORD.”</i></p> <p>Israel ONLY folks – no Nephite nation, No American continent visits. It was Israel only prior to the cross. Then the Lord reached out to other nations.</p>	
<p>If you live in the state of Utah you are well aware that most of the LDS-owned business establishments are closed on Sundays – what the LDS call</p>	

the Sabbath day.

As Christians who live in the liberty of Christ and are *dead to the Law*, our position is that if a person or people choose to honor God on a certain day of the week - so be it - I'm sure the Lord is pleased by all things that are done to honor Him.

There are, however, some cautions to consider when a religion suggests that certain rules - like the observance of what they call the Sabbath day - MUST be observed in order for people to be considered righteous.

The first caution to consider is that if a group chooses to attempt to "obey the Sabbath day," they had better not trifle with the meaning of that day or their obedience to it.

You cannot tell God you are going to follow His Law and then change the rules or intentionally dishonor it.

This is why living in grace is so vitally important, refreshing, and liberating to Christians. What grace says is, "I am saved by *Jesus'* ability to have perfectly obeyed and kept the law in my place, since it is obvious that I am not capable of living it. And then as a result of this liberty, I am free from the commands of the law in that I trust that Jesus has saved me and made me righteous before God - not my own righteousness.

And so it is by grace we are saved through our faith in Him who fulfilled the Law on our behalf.

Now, if you want to be judged by your abilities to obey the law, you had better take it freaking seriously.

The Law is God's, it is perfect, and trying to mix the Law and Grace is like trying to mix oil and water.
Paul said:

"And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work."

Now, (beat) the LDS claim - as a religion - that they keep the Sabbath-day holy.

If they are going to make this claim, there can be no messing around with the rules of it.

They either keep His Law, or they don't. They either keep the Sabbath Day Holy based on what He has said is holy, or they don't.

This being said, the day cannot be moved to another day of the week - like from Saturday to Sunday.

Saturday is the Sabbath. Period.
But we won't even mention this.

And we won't even talk about the fact that it was a covenant day between God and the Children of Israel . . . Or the fact that if you broke the Sabbath the penalty was death.

Let's just speak of the fact that if you are going to be judged by the Law before God, obedience to Sabbath day observance is *NOT* arbitrary or optional. It **MUST** be kept – perfectly.

Scripture is very clear that if you are going to live by the law, you are going to be judged by the law.

In making a case for grace, Paul said in Romans 2:12 that

“ . . . as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law. “

Why do I bring this up?

There is an LDS owned restaurant here in Salt Lake City that is never opened on Sunday – which is an outward sign to the watching and waiting world that they are Sabbatarians for God.

You would think, by all appearances, that they do this to honor of keeping their doors closed on Sunday for God, right?

Well Sunday, I drove passed this restaurant and there was a sign outside that said:

“Open for Mother's day!”

Now think about this:

What the sign was really saying, my friends, if taken in context of the Law and Sabbath day observances, was

<p>“Mother’s or Mother’s day is MORE IMPORTANT to us that God and His Law!”</p> <p>Do you get this seriousness of this?</p> <p>Bottom line: If a people are going to attempt to live by the Law, they had better do it exactly as it is laid out and let NOTHING come between their obedience to it because you can’t mess with God – that is why He sent His Son.</p> <p>I prefer the grace and liberty found in the righteousness of Jesus Christ.</p>	
<p>And with that, let’s have a prayer.</p>	<p>PRAYER</p>
<p>Since the middle of March we have been talking about life in the Utah Territory under Brigham Young.</p> <p>The environment we’ve been discussing certainly contributed to the butchering of over 120 innocent people who were traveling to California in the Fancher train from Arkansas.</p> <p>Last week we laid out two contributing factors to the Mormon Mountain Meadows Massacre.</p> <p>The first was Parley P. Pratt being murdered in Arkansas. If you recall he was hunted down and killed by a man whose wife Pratt married.</p> <p>The second situation was the United States Government sending 2500 troops in to Utah to remove Brigham</p>	

<p>Young as governor and restore law and order.</p> <p>As the Fancher train moved across the plains, a number of other factors were also in place that would certainly contribute to the events at Mountain Meadows.</p> <p>We'll cover these factors tonight.</p> <p>Then next week we'll give a thumbnail chronology of the Fancher Party's journey through Utah, and the following week we'll describe the Mormon Mountain Meadows Massacre itself.</p> <p>Finally, we'll wrap up with what the LDS response has been to the Mormon Mountain Meadows Massacre and some conclusions I think need to be consider from the whole ordeal.</p>	
<p>Now there is one circumstance that I believe is foundational to not just the Mountain Meadows massacre, but to all the strange and seemingly aberrant murders in the state. In fact, I believe this singular event is foundational to the overall spirit that operates within Mormonism today.</p> <p>We need to step back to the time when Brigham Young assumed leadership of the Church once Joseph was killed.</p> <p>He found himself very uncertain as to his ability to fill Joseph Smith's shoes as a "prophet."</p> <p>No wonder. Where Joseph Smith claimed to have received revelation on</p>	

nearly every subject under the sun – and then some – Brigham was lacking in the ability to spout:

“Thus Saith the Lord.”

“Feelings” and what the LDS call “the Spirit” have always played a major role in the religious experience of the Mormons.

Upon meeting Joseph Smith, Brigham Young said he “*FELT his spirit to mingle with Joseph’s as two drops of water,*” and later, he said it was like “*fire in his bones.*”

John Taylor, said that an “*electric current ran up his arm*” when he shook hands with Joseph for the first time.

Well, when Brigham found himself uncertain about his abilities to prophesy by the “*speret,*” he was greatly concerned. I mean, Brigham had never had a face to face experience with God – what was he to do with all these people calling him a prophet?

LDS author Bagley writes that the answer came for Brigham on the morning of February 17th 1847.

Young was very ill and with fever at the time and had an epiphany of sorts.

He said he was taken to the “*world of spirits*” where “*Joseph and Hyrum was.*”

In this spirit world Brigham found Joseph sitting near a bright window. Young kissed Joseph on both cheeks

and asked him:

"Why we could not be together as we once was?"

The spirit of Smith reassured him that
"they should not be together now."

Then the dead prophet answered
Brigham's most serious concern:

How to be a prophet?

In light of the Bible, what Brigham said Joseph said to him is frankly terrifying no matter how you slice it because he told him that:

"The mind of man MUST be open to receive all spirits in order to be prepared to receive the spirit of the Lord."

Following this advice, Joseph Smith supposedly showed Brigham Young a sweeping vision of the plan of salvation.

Later, Young told his apostles to remember this dream, for it was *"a vision of God and was revealed through the spirit of Joseph."*

I'm sure it was.

This experience gave Brigham the confidence to lead the Saints from that point forward. Nevertheless, he never really embraced the title of "prophet, like unto Moses," saying later:

"I don't profess to be such a prophet

<p><i>as were Joseph Smith and Daniel. But I am a Yankee Guesser."</i></p> <p>How's that self-description for a man people trusted as thier spiritual leader and king:</p> <p>"A Yankee Guesser who was willing to receive all spirits."</p> <p>Scary shnit.</p> <p>Within the august advice of the Bible, this is a recipe for pure evil.</p> <p>The Bible is emphatically clear to avoid "<i>familiar spirits, enchanting spirits,</i>" and the like.</p> <p>We are warned NOT to entertain such spirits.</p> <p>And yet the spirit of Joseph told Brigham he must be open to ALL of them?!</p> <p>I would suggest this receptivity to all spirits was actually a major factor that helped move many of the Mormons in southern Utah to butcher those 120 or so innocent men, women, and children.</p>	
<p>Another major factor was the LDS teaching that "<i>revenge needed to be taken for the death of Joseph Smith</i>" and for their "<i>being persecuted and driven from the United States by angry mobs.</i>"</p> <p>NOT turning the other cheek, friends. NOT returning good for evil.</p>	

REVENGE.

On his way to Carthage jail, Joseph Smith said in one of the last recorded statements we know he made:

"If they take my life I shall die and innocent man, AND MY BLOOD SHALL CRY FROM THE GROUND FOR VENGEANCE."

Prior to leaving Nauvoo Illinois in 1845, Brigham Young added an element to the sacred temple endowment itself – probably while entertaining some strange spirit – which he called the *"Oath of Vengeance."*

Does that sound Christian? "Oath of Vengeance?"

Temple initiates, dresses in white and in a state of seeking the "speret" would make a sacred pledge before God that said:

"I will pray, and never cease to pray, and never cease to importune high heaven, to avenge the blood of the Prophet on this nation, and will teach this to my children, and my children's children, unto the third and fourth generations."

Bagley writes that once the Latter-day Saints were in their new mountain home, they:

"never forgot they were refugees: they nurtured their bitterness,

savored their isolation, and longed for the Lord to avenge their suffering."

Time will not permit a recitation of all the quotes from faithful Mormon people who prayerfully waited upon the "day for the Lord" to "heap vengeance upon the heads of the people of the United States" but let me tell you, revenge was a prevailing attitude in the Utah Territory.

This is not the history of a Christian people, my friends!

Now I want you to remove Mormonism from this picture and bring the situation into a modern and reduced context.

Imagine, for a minute, that there is a single man who, because he was considered strange and possibly dangerous, is driven out of his hometown of Las Vegas by people who did not trust nor understand him.

All would agree that what happened to him was unfortunate and unfair – but life works this way.

All of us have experience injustice, being misunderstood, even violent attack. But Jesus commands us to forgive right?

So let's say this man is residing out in the desert somewhere. And over the years he does not turn to the Lord for peace and understanding and forgiveness, but instead concocts some ideas that revenge needs to be taken.

<p>That blood needs to be shed. Lives lost.</p> <p>Then one day a family gets lost on vacation and drives their little family van into this mans remote area.</p> <p>Now, ask yourself, "What would you think of him and his actions – no matter what his reasons were – if the guy pirated the family van, then systematically butchered the husband, the wife, and all the children over eight years of age while they pleaded for mercy?</p> <p>Would you think He was following CHRISTIAN ideals or some other speret?</p> <p>Would anything he experienced justify his actions on an innocent family?</p> <p>And then, what would you think of his religious views if he was a leader in a church in the community and actually prayed before, during, and after the butchering?</p> <p>This is exactly the context of the Mormon Mountain Meadows Massacre.</p> <p>Don't let the time, era, distance, and situation cloud the fact that shedding innocent blood is never justified – ever!</p>	
<p>All of these factors we have been discussing – Pratt's death, to the invading federal government, the LDS attitude for revenge, the vitriolic</p>	

<p>speeches by Young, and the fanatical spiritual reformation imposed by the brethren – contributed greatly to what LDS historian D Michael Quinn called a “culture of violence” among the Saints in Utah.</p> <p>Add in the fact that the Fancher train was well to do and traveling through an impoverished land, that they came from Arkansas, and that their cattle would feed on grass-land Mormons believed belonged to them, and you have got the makings of a bloody disaster.</p> <p>Which we’ll continue talking about next week.</p> <p>Let’s open up the phone lines:</p> <p>(801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p>	
SPOT SPOT SPOT	
<p>Received an email from a man who lives in the UK we’ll call “C.”</p> <p>He writes: (see email)</p> <p>Then respond</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His time – never too soon, never too late. • Walk by faith. Trust in Him. <p>Some are radical experiences, others</p>	

uneventful but there and growing.	

<p>LIVE! From the “Mecca of Mormonism” SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH This is <u>Heart of the Matter</u>!</p> <p><i>“Where Mormonism Meets Christianity Face to Face.”</i></p>	<p>Show 20 Mormon Mountain Meadows Massacre – Part III May 19th 2009</p> <p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>If you have family or friends who can’t watch “HEART OF THE MATTER” through the available television channels – which include cable and dish and youtube – they can go to HOTM.TV and watch LIVE through streaming video from anywhere in the world – right NOW!</p> <p>That’s . . . WWW.HOTM.TV</p> <p>We also hope you will take advantage of the many archived shows at HOTM.TV and use them to investigate Mormonism and its claims of being Christian.</p>	
<p>We often have people request books to read and places to go where they can find information on Mormonism.</p> <p>For both, go to www.UTLM.org</p> <p>They are going on forty years of reaching out to people with the facts and truths about Mormonism.</p> <p>I trust their work and research and recommend UTLM.ORG as the go to site for all things LDS.</p>	
<p>Every week we are holding Bible studies around the State to compliment your church experience.</p>	

<p>We call them “Calvary Campus,” and we meet on Sunday afternoon at the U of U and Sunday evening at Utah State. Then we meet in Ogden on Wednesday nights for the Ezekiel Project.</p> <p>Go to www.calvarycampus.org for more information like times and directions.</p>	
<p>I just want to share one thing with you: Ready?</p> <p>“You can trust God and you can trust the Bible.”</p>	
<p>Okay, we receive a lot of emails from people wondering about the best way to approach their LDS friends or family members with the biblical truth of Jesus.</p> <p>Many worry about offending the people they love but at the same time want to share the life and liberty that can be had through an authentic relationship with Jesus.</p> <p>Let us remind you that there are a number of methods all of which the Lord uses depending on the circumstance.</p> <p>But here are some things we believe might be present.</p> <p>First, include them by name in your prayers. The Lord will hear your petitions.</p> <p>Second, love them, love on them, love at them, love them unconditionally. Love them in their Mormonism just as you would love any other person of any other faith, walk, or lifestyle – this is the</p>	

<p>Christian call.</p> <p>Third, focus on Jesus if and whenever you can. Describe your relationship with Him as though they too, share in the same relationship. Maybe they do. Or, maybe your descriptions will cause them to wonder why they don't. But this approach will remove confrontation or ugliness because it assumes your friend or family member understands Him already. And it lets THEM do the questioning.</p> <p>Once Jesus gets to work, everything else will take its proper place. Information about Mormonism and knowledge of the Bible may be sought. And then the process of "seeing" and "hearing" begins.</p> <p>Finally, wait on the Lord with patience.</p> <p>Hebrews 10:36 says:</p> <p><i>"For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise."</i></p> <p>So we do the will of God, and we wait on Him.</p> <p>Do not despair, my friends. The Lord loves the LDS as much as He loves you. He is doing a work to bring many out from the bondage of this other gospel.</p> <p>Trust Him.</p>	
<p>Over the past number of years I have had the opportunity to personally be</p>	

involved with literally hundreds of interactions with unsuspecting Latter-day Saints – usually on airplanes or in airports.

Generally speaking, there is a built-in response mechanism most LDS have in dialogue.

They are happy, willing, and open to speak to *anyone, anytime* about the LDS Church, but an automatic system shut-down occurs, in varying degrees, if an invasive subject of Mormonism doctrine or history comes up.

Our resident Aphorist – “Reed” shared another profound parallel illustration with me recently about this ubiquitous LDS shut-down response.

He likened the illogical nature of it to a man we’ll call Joe.

Now Joe has worked long and hard and over the course of his life he has placed all of his finances in the hands of the ABC Bank and Trust.

Joe has a savings account with ABC, a checking account, Certificates of Deposit, Investment and Retirement accounts.

The illogical nature of the LDS shut-down is akin to Joe opening up the newspaper on day, and seeing a headline that reads:

Is ABC Bank and Trust financially sound?

And then in terror – he slams the paper shut, refusing to read any more.

You see, reading will bother Joe – trouble him – cause him to lose faith in the ABC Bank and Trust.

You see, the ABC Bank is his bank, after all, and he doesn't want to have to think about any other option.

That would be too hard, too taxing, too hard. So he blindly places his entire financial future in the unchecked hands of the ABC Bank.

Soon the evening news reports that the ABC Bank and Trust is in serious trouble.

But instead of listening and hearing the updated findings, Joe turns the channel, or covers his ears to what is being said.

You see, by listening, Joe would have to ask himself:

What other bank are out there?

He would have to consider leaving ABC when it is all he has ever known.

It is all his family has ever known.

And so he closes his eyes, and ears, and just "shuts down."

Somehow, Joe thinks his response is noble. He calls it faith. And he reassures himself by repeating the mantra:

"I know the bank is safe . . . I know the bank is safe . . . I know the bank is safe."

Until he realizes, when he needs his hard

<p>earned savings, that there is nothing in the vault, and he has been duped – NOT just by ABC, but in the end, by his own laziness, fear, and refusal to face reality.</p> <p>And while very few people alive would ever accept keeping their money in an institution with such findings floating around about it, many LDS do this very thing with their eternal salvation – they cover their eyes and ears to anything that causes them to wonder, all the while repeating to themselves:</p> <p>“I know its true, I know its true, I know it’s true.”</p> <p>And with that, let’s have a prayer.</p>	
<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>	<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>
<p>By the time the Fancher Party entered Utah, their appointment with a brutal death in wide open spaces was simply a matter of time.</p> <p>Upon their arrival in Salt Lake, the thinking was it was on or around August 3rd 1857, the journal of LDS member Lorenzo Brown noted that “the Bishop (of their ward) is requested to take charge of all property in the ward so there would be no selling to the Gentiles.”</p> <p>Where Jesus said (Mark 9:41) “For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name shall not lose his reward,” Brigham’s orders were that no Latter-day Saint was to give or sell any emigrant anything they may need.</p> <p>Bagley notes that stepping into Salt Lake was like “stepping into a hornets nest” as</p>	

the previous week the leaders had
“worked their followers into a frenzy.”

Bagley adds in his book, *Blood of the Prophets*:

“Even a historian sympathetic to the Mormons reported the Arkansans found them (the Mormons) “in no friendly mood, and at once concluded to break camp (out of Salt Lake City) and move on.”

And what did the Fancher Party most likely face as they rode South to Mountain Meadows? The same treatment other parties of emigrants faced who came before them – but lived to report it.

Often wagon trails were aggressively met by Mormons who would ask:

“Are you a Saint or a Sinner?”

If you didn’t answer Saint – meaning Latter-day Saint – you were in for one difficult ride through the state.

One of these difficulties was a system of fees and fines imposed upon emigrant trains which in the end were merely a guise for extortion.

Fines were imposed if cattle grazed on unauthorized land, if profanity was used, or for “fault-finding.” Property would be held if a protest was made.

In addition to the conditions of not selling to the emigrants even the necessities of life and fining them for all manner of unconscionable causes, Emigrant trains were also under the constant fear of “the Indians.”

Now, Bagley and Juanita Brookes provide a large body of research on the different Indian tribes living in Utah when it was a territory and even a state – so much so that I cannot give it all justice here.

But know this:

The federal Government made Brigham Young the territorial agent to the Indian people, and with this position, he became in their eyes, a Big Chief, whom they called “Big Um.”

Brigham Young, amidst his rhetoric that the last days were quickly approaching, and that the “gentile nation” was going to fall, tapped into Joseph Smith’s “war prophecy” in the Doctrine and Covenants (49:24 and 87:5) which states “*that the remnants who are left of the land (the American Indians) will marshal themselves, and shall become exceedingly angry, and shall vex the Gentiles with a sore vexation.*”

To help marshal the Utah tribes, Brigham was strategically good to the Indian peoples, and provided them with great material supports. But for this support he exacted a price – that is, the Utah natives were taught to not only differentiate between Mericats (American Gentiles) and Mormons, but to be hostile to the one and subservient to the other.

This symbiotic relationship allowed for the Mormons in many ways to use and control the natives in order to take advantage and capitalize on the Mercats who sought passage through the territory.

Says Bagley:

"Young had to choose between his fidelity to the U.S. Government and his loyalty to the Mormon people. The superintendent for Indian Affairs for Utah Territory was charge with protecting overland emigrants from Indian attacks, and on August 16th of 1857 Brigham Young declared that he would abandon that responsibility if the army came to Utah."

However, Brigham Young did not wait for an invasion to sic the Indians on travelers. With the Fancher Party in state, Young, according to Bagley:

"Explicitly violated his sworn duty and sent agents to encourage Indian attacks on wagon trains," who met with Indian leaders and after after supplying them with melon, cows, and corn, told them that:

"the Lord had come out of His hiding place & they had to commence their work." (pg 92)

In the end, when the Indians didn't finish certain "jobs" expected of them, the Mormons assumed their savage appearances, and finished the jobs themselves.

Emigrant witnesses from other trains often commented on the unique skin tone of the Indians in Utah who observed that when being raided and robbed that the savages had "deep white lines" in the creases of skin around their eyes" and white patches between their ears and hair."

Okay, as the Fancher party headed south toward Cedar City two events – of many – are worth noting.

First of all, it is strongly believed they allowed some “backouts” to travel with their camp, which would have infuriated the Mormon faithful.

You see, Brigham Young revived Joseph Smith’s “Law of Consecration” three years earlier in the territory and there were a number of “Saints” who wanted to escape from the hell of his dominating everything in their lives – so they looked for ways to get out of town.

These were known as “backouts.”

Additionally, a story – which LDS author Bagley considers a myth – surfaced which said that the Fancher party, while stopping at an Indian farm just south of Fillmore called Corn Creek, poisoned the well water and the meat of an ox which lead to the death of several Indians.

But by all accounts the stories were fabrications, forged and forwarded by the LDS to cover and/or somehow justify their horrific deeds.

We can say this because where all the accusations against the Fancher party’s behavior are unfounded and mythical in nature, reports as to their civility and piety were recorded and left behind.

As a matter of record, that summer an LDS man named Eli Kelsey was returning from his mission and traveled with the Fancher train from Fort Bridger to Salt Lake. He wrote:

"he had never traveled with more pleasant companions" and spoke kindly about sharing company with (the Fancher Party's) "venerable patriarch."

The RM also noted that the Fancher party were:

"people from the country districts, sober, hard-working, plain folks, but well-to-do, and taken all in all, about as respectable a band of emigrants as ever passed through Salt Lake City."

Let me just summarize that as the Fancher train made its way down to Cedar City, "Big Um" had met with many of the territories Indian Chiefs to engage them in the work of keeping emigrants off the roads leading south out of Utah.

All the factors we have discussed over the past three or four weeks we're now reaching a fervent pitch.

Bagley, a historian who has researched the evidence more than any human alive writes:

"Whatever led to their massacre, one thing is certain: the attack was set in motion days BEFORE the Fancher party reached Cedar City."

And Juanita Brooks, another LDS authority on the subject, wrote:

"When the facts are marshaled, there is not justification enough for the death of a single individual."

These are very important statements because prior to and immediately following the Mormon bloodbath, all sorts of mythical justifications were fabricated by the participants to justify both what they were about to do . . . and what they did.

The big question that remains is where did the orders come from to carry the massacre out?

I believe, the answer is obvious.

Just ask yourselves today:

“Where do the orders come from that get the Saints to act? Who ordered the Prop 8 involvement? Who tells the Mormon girls they are allowed one piercing per ear? Who signature is still at the bottom of every mission call?

That’s right, the so-called prophet.

Perhaps most importantly, ask yourself at what point in history and under what Mormon “Prophet” would the LDS people be MOST inclined to strictly obey and follow ONLY his orders?

Did, did you say, Brigham Young?

So, aside from all the factors we have discussed – which all came from Brigham Young anyway – how did the order to kill the Fancher party reach the Mormon leadership in Southern Utah?

While the Fancher party headed South toward Mountain Meadows, they crossed paths with a rotund LDS Apostle George A Smith, who had been in Southern Utah

on church affairs, which included his strict orders that the Saints were not to sell the emigrants anything.

It so happened that the traveling parties actually camped across from each other one evening, and witnesses who were with Apostle Smith's camp said he said:

He believed there was a strange atmosphere surrounding the travelers and that "*some evil would befall them before they got through (Utah).*"

Bagley writes that Smith pronounced a self-fulfilling prophecy with those words.

Morning came and the Apostle Smith party continued on toward Salt Lake while the Fancher party headed south.

After Apostle Smith preached the next day, his entourage continued north with the exception of Silas Smith and Bishop Seymour Brunson, who turned around and headed south.

Bagley notes that Federal Prosecutors believe that they two Saints carried with them what massacre veterans called the "*orders from headquarters.*"

Now without getting bogged down in the plethora of LDS leaders names involved in actually carrying out the blood letting, let me just say that the word was out, and obedience to it was expected of all involved.

By the time the Fancher party reached Cedar City, Bagley says the fires of "reformation burned brightly."

I would imagine a similar fervor was present during the crusades, and in the cockpit of those planes that took out our World Trade Centers.

Nothing – not even nationalism – can get people to do more evil than an act that is done in God’s Holy Name for God’s Holy Purposes.

But with this being said, I do want to end tonight with two stories of honor, two stories that bring me hope, two stories I applaud.

The first is about a Mrs. Morgan in Cedar City. A Mormon woman, who, despite the cruel orders from the top to not trade with the emigrants, gave them a round of cheese for their journey in trade for one of their hand-made blankets from Arkansas.

Bagley notes that both Brother and Sister Morgan were later “cut off from the church.”

The second story of honor is about an LDS man named Joseph Walker.

Cedar City was, as mentioned, on fire with religious fervor. Bagley states, however, that “Mormons of Conscience resisted the hysteria.”

Where Mormon hostility had met the Arkansas train since Salt Lake, the Francher team made a friend in one “*Joseph Walker*” who Bagley described as “*a sturdy and bluff old Englishman*” who charitably milled the grain the Francher party had bought at Corn Creek.

His Bishop, one Bishop Philip

Klingensmith, a real piece of work who murdered on command, sent an elder to order Walker not to grind the wheat.

Walker replied:

"Tell the Bishop I have six grown sons, and that we will sell our lives at the price of death to others before I will obey his orders."

That is honor, my friends, honor I am sure was forged on the anvil of a sound belief in Jesus Christ.

Old Walker, amidst wild fanaticism, told his Bishop – who is supposedly inspired of the Lord – to take a flying leap. Why?

Because Walker knew that following God and dying true is far more precious than following man and living a lie.

The Fancher party got out of Cedar City unawares that a gathering of LDS men who would do what they were told despite the order, had gathered in prayer to God on how to go about killing them all.

Next week, we'll arrive at the Mormon Mountain Meadows Massacre.

Let's open the phone lines:

(801) 973-TV20
(801) 973-8820

For several weeks now, we have run the following announcement.

I want to thank you all for your response.

<p>It is impressive and humbling.</p> <p>I also want you to know that whether you can be a partner or not, we appreciate all you have done and all you continue to do.</p> <p>We may not see it, but God does and that really is what matters.</p> <p>So let's take a look at this spot while the operators clear some calls for us.</p> <p>SPOT</p>	
EMAILS	
CONCLUSION	

<p>LIVE! From the “Mecca of Mormonism” SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH This is <u>Heart of the Matter</u>!</p> <p><i>“Where Mormonism Meets Christianity Face to Face.”</i></p>	<p>Show 21 Mormon Mountain Meadows Massacres – Part IV</p> <p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>If you have family or friends who can’t watch HEART OF THE MATTER through the available television channels – which include cable and dish – they can go to HOTM.TV and watch LIVE through streaming video from anywhere in the world.</p> <p>WWW.HOTM.TV</p>	
<p>Remember, Calvary Campus – a verse by verse Bible teaching - has a new meeting time . . . Sundays from 2:30 to 3:30 pm at the University of Utah and then at Weber State and Utah State from 7-8 at night.</p> <p>Everyone is welcome as we seek</p> <p><i>“the perfecting of the saints, the work of the ministry, and the edifying of the body of Christ.”</i></p> <p>Not church, more like school, show up and learn.</p> <p>Go to www.calvarycampus.com for more information.</p>	
<p>We’ll because our ministry is observed on a larger scale because of the exposed on television and the internet – which is highly interactive</p>	

<p>- rumors, half truths, and misinformation have a tendency to take on a life of their own.</p> <p>So let me address some of the more ridiculous - and dangerous - half truths floating around out there.</p>	
<p>First, there is the rumor that our financial support from Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa has ceased - NOT TRUE. Nothing has changed. They stand behind us as much now as they ever have. We still receive missional funding from them every month.</p> <p>There is also a rumor that I own exotic condos and property all over the place, that I stay in hotels while here in Salt Lake City while dining in expensive restaurants, living high on the hog. NOT TRUE. None of it. Period. Let me tell you something, even if I had the means, which I don't - but if I did, it is not my nature to live high on the hog. I strive to avoid materialism. I find it mundane and shallow. I am not impressed by the material trappings of the world.</p> <p>There is also a rumor that the evangelical community hates us - this is PARTIALLY TRUE. But only with those who have not taken the time to understand us. Most people who have watched the show, read our theological positions, or heard us teach the word, support us. Those who don't are usually lacking in some facts . . . or are mentally ill. ☺</p> <p>There is a rumor that I am a closet homosexual. NOT TRUE. Not that it</p>	

really matters, but my sexual temptations all begin and end with women. Which is just as sinful, by the way.

This ministry loves and embraces homosexuals just like we love and embrace all people from all walks of life, and we do refuse to single them out as the fall guys for all the world's troubles.

There is a rumor that we are attempting to make Mormonism part of the Body of Christ, that we are syncretists, that we are trying to legitimize Mormonism as an authentic form of Christianity. NOT TRUE IN ANY WAY, SHAPE OR FORM.

I mean, watch the program.

We do hope, however, to see the LDS Church become part of the Body of Christ, but ONLY after they have changed their errant doctrine . . . but only after they have renounced many non Christian practices, and only after they have openly admitted to their history.

We still maintain that there are plenty of Mormon people who are in fine standing with the Lord by virtue of their faith in Jesus. In fact, let me restate that the religion a person chooses to be involved with has always been secondary, in our minds, at least, to the relationship they have with the Lord Jesus.

For example, I personally would

NEVER become active in charismatic pentacostalism – ever – but I am supportive of those who do. I would most likely not ever be a Catholic – but I am supportive of those who are and love their hearts for Jesus.

Since we personally find *all* sectarian applications lacking in some manner, who are we to tell anyone – Mormon people included – that they are not Christian?

What we will do, is fight for the core issues of Christianity to be present in Mormonism – which they are not.

That is why we have the show.
These core issues include that . . .

There is one God of three persons.
Jesus is God in the flesh.
Jesus was born of a virgin.
Jesus paid for all sin on the cross.
Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith.
There is no means, manner, way, practice, rite, ritual, obedience or church membership necessary to life with God but receiving Jesus by faith.
And that the Bible is God's infallible Word.

Make sense?

Finally, there is a rumor that I was never a faithful Latter-day Saint while a member of the church. The picture being painted – which has grown in scope and vitriol – that was I was on the fringe, unaccepted, and never “truly” a member in good

standing.

This is just not so.

Ask any honest person from my home ward and stake.

Did I struggle with doctrine and history and the practices of Mormonism? Certainly. But I supported it.

I would suggest that if someone is a member and does not struggle with doctrine and practice they are the ones who can't be trusted.

Not only was I active, I was called to leadership positions by virtue of my activity and allegiance . . . *because* I was respected . . . *due* to the fact that my wife and I gave Mormonism our all.

When Jesus stepped out against the religious practices of his day, the Pharisees pulled the same attacks on him, suggesting that His opinions were tainted because He was "born of sin," and "came from Nazareth" and you are not one whit different in spirit or method.

I stand against Mormonism not because of the people, not because of my own sins, and not because I am angry that I couldn't make it in the religion - I had "made it and was making it" before I walked.

I stand against Mormonism because of it's doctrine pure and simple - it's doctrine which could never lead me

<p>to freedom in the Lord Jesus.</p> <p>And with that, let's have a prayer.</p>	
PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER	
<p>A spirit of violence and warped retaliation was in place as the Fancher Party had left Cedar City, anxious to escape the Utah territory and get to neutral lands.</p> <p>As they headed south, a Stake President by the name of Haight and his counselors, his Stake High Council, and a Bishop Klingensmith and his counselors formed a "prayer circle" and raised the question on how to dispatch with the Fancher train.</p> <p>John D. Lee, who would in the end become the fall guy for the entire ugly mess, wrote that he took his marching orders from Stake President Haight, saying:</p> <p><i>"We took some blankets and went over to the old Iron Works, and lay there all night, so we could talk in private."</i></p> <p>Lee went on to say that Haight told him it was, <i>"the will of all in authority,"</i> to arm the Indians and <i>"send them after the emigrants, and have the Indians give them a brush, and if they killed part or all of them, so much the better."</i></p> <p>According to LDS author Will Bagley, by the mid-1850's, the area of Mountain Meadows was notorious among the Latter-day Saints as a "preferred location for the quiet execution of unpleasant tasks."</p>	

One by one the Fancher wagon trains pulled into the Meadows under a full moon, unaware that lurking in the dark hills above them John D. Lee had a group of LDS men looking on.

Where the original plan was to attack the party a days drive further on down the road, Lee found the disorganized layout of their wagons at Mountain Meadows a sign that God had delivered them into their hands.

There "in the moonlit darkness," writes Bagley, "the Mormons stripped for battle and donned war paint to disguise themselves as Indians. "

Then, at the break of day, on Monday September 7th, Bagley writes that:

"Lee . . . and his men . . . found a number of emigrants standing by the campfires. As his men crept up to the wagons, John D. Lee prepared to avenge the blood of the prophets."

They men first drove the emigrants cattle away undetected.

Then a number of other men slipped up a dry Creek only to land within yards of some of the emigrants.

The first human being killed at Mountain Meadows by the Mormons was a child.

A surviving youth reported:

"Our party was just sitting down to a breakfast of quail and cottontail rabbits when a shot rang out from a nearby gully, and one of the children toppled over, hit by the bullet."

Ten to fifteen people of the Fancher party were stuck down in the first wave of the attack.

As the emigrants rushed to get their weapons a group of recruited Indians launched a frontal attack with a howl.

But the emigrants were good shots, and killed one and wounded two others. This reprisal sent the attacking party away in shock as the Indians were confident in the power of Mormon magic to protect them.

This allowed the emigrants to move all their wagons but one out and away from the creek beds and ravines where their attackers had snuck up on them and to then form them into a circle.

Nancy Huff, a surviving child of the massacre, later recalled that after the initial attack:

"Some of the men folk were wounded. (Other) men dug a ditch around our camp, and fortified the best they could. The women and children got in the ditches, and were comparatively out of danger."

The emigrants skill at shooting their rifles so accurately brought an instant

realization to the mind of massacre leader John D. Lee.

"Now," he wrote, "we knew the Indians could not do the work and we were in a sad fix."

Bagley added

"The battle had locked into a siege, a development the attackers apparently had not considered."

The Paiute Indian leader later said that the emigrants "had long guns and were good shots," and they were immediately dismayed and confused at seeing some of their men fall by the emigrant retaliation.

So there we have it.

The Mormons orchestrated an attack and it failed due to the retaliation of the Fancher party.

What could they do?

Now, think! They had already killed ten to fifteen of the Fancher party, and they had them there thinking the attack was by Indians.

The Mormons had an opportunity here to stop everything. To get to a nearby river, wipe off their paint, and come to the rescue of the remaining Fancher train!. Why the need for more bloodshed?

Whatever the response, their subsequent behavior further reveals the heart of the LDS leadership then –

and I would suggest now as their doctrine have not changed.

Because what they went on to do were unnecessary acts of retaliation, revenge, and bloodshed based on fear, cowardice, and an attempt to cover their tracks.

Instead of mercy, remorse, or allowing some Christian tenderness to enter into their conscious, they pressed on for more and more blood and suffering.

I press this issue because these men were believers in Mormon doctrine.

They embraced an attitude toward life and living, toward revenge and retribution, toward shedding blood which lie outside the pale of Christian teachings established long before Joseph Smith had ever been born.

Don't forget this.

So Lee set guards and snipers around the area so that the emigrants could not get to water and sent out a call for more faithful believing LDS men to come to the scene and help finish the job the Indians couldn't.

Many of the LDS men engaged in the final decimation stated that they were not there when the attack began but were called in to do their duty and finish the job.

The number of Indians remaining on the scene to fight remains a mystery,

with some saying it was as a few and others (who seemed to want to blame the Indians for the affair) stating there were as many as 600.

And where the Mormons later painted the Indians participating as "crazed savages howling for blood," Bagley notes that the actions of the whites shocked the Paiutes.

Bagley states:

"By Indian standards, they (the whites) made no sense. Why had their missionaries told them not to kill and steal yet now they seemed bent on killing every last Mericat man, woman, and child? Why charge the emigrant fort again and again? Why not simply take the cattle and leave?"

I would suggest that what the Indians were witnessing was the living enactment of faulty, man-made religious beliefs. The paradoxical nature of Mormonism had revealed itself in all its glory right there on the fields at Mountain Meadows.

It's the direct result of mixing Christian bromides of "love and forgiveness" with dogmatic legalisms from men and cult-like demands of unquestioned loyalty.

It's the product of claiming to "follow Jesus" but then placing mortals housed in flesh and bone and blood to do all their thinking.

<p>It's youth dances that begin and end in prayer but pound AC/DC and Snoop Dog in between.</p> <p>It's what happens when religion becomes more important than a living relationship with Jesus, and it manifests itself even today when seemingly upstanding members of the church end up screaming profanities and bloodying a brother's nose at a Stake Basketball game.</p> <p>None of this stuff has ever been Christianity.</p>	
<p>Bagley writes:</p> <p><i>"The suffering of the doomed company defies imagining. The few details of the five day siege recalled by the surviving children only begin to capture the horror of life inside the wagon fort. The smell of dead animals – Lee counted sixty head – and unburied corpses corrupted the late summer air. Fear, hunger and thirst stalked the camp as the Arkansans waited for the next attack, but did not surrender to despair."</i></p> <p>Completely surrounded and cut off from the water of the spring, the emigrants kept up their courage, recalled Rebecca Dunlap, "fighting like lions."</p> <p>But constant sniper fire, pinning down their every move under the hot September sun of Southern Utah</p>	

must have reminded every last person there in the dust that their next breath just may be their last.

On Tuesday night, Lee made one more attack on the emigrants to try and make an end of it all but it too ended in disaster by creating even more casualties among the Piute warriors who were supposed to have been protected by the Mormon Spirits.

Lee knew he and his fellow Mormons were in a real mess. Councils were held, prayers were said, with the LDS leaders trying to heal wounded Indians with their spiritual magic oils and prayers – but to no avail – the Indians blessed by their priesthood all died.

Two days passed, with the LDS leaders scampering about wondering what to do and the Fancher party laying in the hot southern Utah dirt.

On Thursday morning September 10th, Mormon militia commanders rang the Cedar City town bell to call out the rest of the Nauvoo legion to arms.

Bishop Kingensmith later admitted that the general militia was called out *“for the purpose of committing acts of hostility against the emigrants.”*

Bagley notes, however that this was no general call up of the militia as Bishop Kingensmith had suggested because all of the known participants in the massacre were men who were

known for loyalty to the LDS church and who were taken from the upper echelons of several companies, each, according to Bagley having in all probability sworn the temple endowment oath to avenge the blood of the prophets.

After arriving at a ranch just outside of Mountain Meadows Thursday evening, these faithful LDS endowed leaders met for a "priesthood council."

So while beautiful little children lay petrified in the dirt for the fourth full straight day, listening to their mothers weep uncontrollably over the death of their daddy, or their little brother or sister, LDS leader Higbee opened this priesthood meeting with prayer and by invoking the Holy Spirit to be present and with them.

Higbee then claimed that the only "safe course" was the "utter destruction of the whole rascally lot," That, "every must be killed "except such as are too young to tell tales, and if the Indians cannot do it without help, the Mormons must help them."

John D Lee claimed that killing women and children would be shedding innocent blood to which Elder Higbee replied with despotic rhetoric and trumped up hyperbole aimed at rousing the men to action:

"Have not these people threatened to murder our leaders and Prophet, and have they not boasted of

murdering our Patriarchs and Prophets, Joseph and Hyrum? Now talk about shedding innocent blood! Why brethren, there is not a drop of innocent blood in that entire camp of Gentiles outlaws; they are a set of cut-throats, robbers, and assassins . . . who aided to shed the blood of our prophets, Joseph and Hyrum, and it is our orders, from all in authority to get the emigrants from their stronghold, and help the Indians kill them."

The council then formed a prayer circle, like the prayer circles they form in their temples today, and again invoked the "*Spirit of God to direct them in the matter.*"

Now LDS people are always stating that personal revelation is "superior" to the demands of the Christian manual of the New Testament – here is a perfect illustration as to why their perspective is so warped and unreliable because what was the result of these men "praying" and "relying on the spirit?"

All the council on the field voted that in the morning – which would be a Friday - a little before daylight, they would kill all the emigrants.

Nephi Johnson reported that John D. Lee actually wanted to let the emigrants go at this point but that Lee accepted Stake President Haight's orders "*to clean up the dirty job he*

started."

Lee wrote:

"It was the wish of all the Mormon Priesthood to have the thing done, believing that all the Gentiles were to be killed as a war measure, and that the Mormons, AS GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE, were to hold and inhabit the earth and rule and govern the globe."

This claim, and the actions that followed are consistent with everything the LDS believed then AND . . . AND . . . AND . . . what they continue - at the top - to believe today.

Please listen very closely:

Expect this history to repeat itself in some manner someday.

By Friday morning, less than two dozen men remained in the Fancher party survived to defend the circled wagons.

Suddenly, the snipping that had kept the emigrants trapped in the dirt for five days stopped and an eerie silence fell over the Mountain Meadows.

The Mormon leaders now had a plan - to gain the emigrants trust, decoy them, disarm them, and then kill them all.

Unbeknownst to the LDS leaders at

the time, the night before the emigrants sent three of their much needed men out into the desert night in a last ditch effort to get help.

All of them were located and killed.

Lee spoke to his men.

"Brethren, we have been sent here to perform a duty. It is a duty we owe to God, and to our church and people. The order of those in authority are that all the emigrants must die. We must kill them all, and our orders are to get them out by treachery if no other thing can be done to get them in our power."

Lee then had the very difficult job of getting the Fancher party to trust him.

Bagley writes:

"It was unimaginable to the Arkansans that the Mormons planned teachery on such a scale. The emigrants simply could not believe that professed Christian's could execute such a diabolical scheme."

There are several accounts on how the actual surrender occurred, but one of the more sobering ones comes from the memory of a surviving Fancher party child, Rebecca Dunlap, who recalled that when the Mormon wagons approached their camp, the emigrants dressed her little eight year

old sister in white, and sent her out waving a white handkerchief of peace.

It took Lee two full hours to hammer out an agreement, part of which included that the emigrants would put their arms in a wagon so as to not arouse the animosity of the Indians and the Mormons would escort the remaining Fancher party to safety.

Lee later admitted that he knew he was doing a damnable deed, but his "faith in the godliness of his leaders was convincing him that he was simply not worthy of the important part he was commanded to perform."

As negotiations dragged on, one Daniel MacFarlane rode into their camp and warned that they needed to get a move on because the Indians were going to renew their attack before they could get them to safety.

Some of the Fancher party were wary of surrendering their arms, but because of thirst and fear, agreed.

Lee divided the party into three groups and gave them marching orders.

The first two groups and their wagons consisted of the youngest of children and then women and the older children. The last group were the men who were all on foot.

Lee instructed the first groups to walk out to a line of Mormon men who stood by waiting in a line.

They did, and were driven past them quickly so they could be separated from the first onslaught upon the third group of males.

As the last group of Fancher party men arrived at the waiting line of Mormon Militia Men, the militia men sided up one on one with the Fancher men and marched, causing the Fancher men to “cheer the soldiers as they thought they were acting honestly.”

Bagley notes:

“None of the men in the Mormon guard ever described their feelings as they received the cheers of the Arkansas men and escorted them up the field. None of them ever described what it was like to accept the trust of men they would soon murder in cold blood.”

As the children’s wagon pulled further away, Mormon John Higbee marched the men to a smooth open space at the side of the road and shouted, “Halt.”

The Mormons stopped. The Fancher men stopped. And Higbee shouted, “Do your duty.”

The Mormons then shot each Fancher party male dead.

Bishop Klingensmith is the only one who was in the march who ever admitted to participating in the

killing. When asked if he hit the man, he replied, "Of course I did."

One of the men, looking down the knife of LDS leader Higbee is quoted as saying, "*Higbee, I wouldn't do this to you,*" which implied he was one of the hated "backouts."

Higbee replied, "*you would have done the same to me or just as bad,*" and he slit the man's throat.

With the men dead, the attack was opened on the wounded men, the women, and the children. It was here that the call to attack was made to Indians – real and Mormons in disguise – and they came out from the brush like wild savages.

"Every part of the field of attack witnessed its own special horrors," writes Bagley.

Four year old survivor Nancy Huff reported that "*I saw my mother shot in the forehead and fall dead. The women and children screamed and clung together. Some of the young women begged the assassins not to kill them, but they had no mercy on them, clubbing their guns and beating out their brains.*"

Other children gave just a horrific accounts. One spoke of watching the Indians slay a baby in his mothers arms and then butcher the mother.

And one child, Emberson Tackitt,

recalled offering his coat to a white man in exchange for his life.

Many witnesses, according to Bagley, said that over and over again, as women and children would wrap their arms around the legs of their attackers, begging for their lives, they would have their throats slashed from ear to ear.

Blood lust seemed to consume some of the participants, causing them to hewn as many down as they could find.

One blood thirsty maniac was William Stewart. Bagley cites an account that tells of Stewart ordering a lad to kill a woman who was recovering from consciousness. The boy refused and Stewart drove a bowie knife to the hilt into her body as she struggled to her feet.

As years past, Stewart was said to boast about how he took the damned gentile babies by the heels and cracked their skulls over the wagon tires.

Another Mormon Murderer, George Adair, when drunk, would *"laugh and attempt to imitate the pitiful crushing sound of the skull bones as they struck the iron bands of the wagon hubs."*

When one H.L Halleck passed through southern Utah in December of 1858, Piute Indians reported that John D. Lee was like a wild beast who

had just tasted fresh blood. That he was turned into a demon.”

Let me remind you, these heinous acts are the direct result of DOCTRINE made by MEN. Of OBEDIENCE made to MEN. Of a religion focused on MEN, and MAN.

When the massacre was over, child Nancy Huff reported what Bagley called a “sadistic ritual” – the execution of a young girl in view of the surviving children.

Said Huff:

“At the close of the massacre there was eighteen children still alive, one girl, some ten or twelve years old, they said was too big and could tell. So they killed her, leaving seventeen.

By most accounts the massacre was over quickly.

When the work was done, John D. Lee instructed Samuel Knight to take his wagon off the road and dump the butchered bodies out. Which he did.

While the bodies lay strewn out over the land, Mormon leader Higbee directed his men to search the dead for valuables.

It is believed that the bodies were left there where they died, were first stripped of all their clothing by the Indians, and then torn apart by animals, scattering their bones across the area.

The Mormon commanders assembled back on the field and addressed their men.

Lee said Higbee and Bishop Klingensmith “made speeches, and ordered the people to keep the matter secret from the entire world. Not to tell their wives or their most intimate friends.

Lee added:

We pledged ourselves to keep everything relating to the affair a secret during life, and to always insist that the massacre was committed by Indians alone.

Bagley notes:

Consistently, the surviving children reported seeing the Mormons shed their war paint.

While playing marbles with Josiah Gibbs in 1859, little Christopher Carson Fancher cocked his head and said, “*My Father was killed by Indians; when they washed their faces, they were white men.*”

Before going to the phones, we want to conclude tonight’s program with a brief memorium to those we know were part of the Fancher/Baker Party. We apologize for any names we have missed.

May their brutal murders serve as a constant reminder to Mormon people everywhere that their non-Christian, man-made doctrine and practices

caused these deaths. (SHOW CLIP)	
EMAILS	
SPOT	
LDS REACTION TO MMMM OVER THE YEARS.	

<p>LIVE! From the “Mecca of Mormonism” - Salt Lake City, Utah - THIS . . . is Heart of the Matter . . . “Where Mormonism Meets Biblical Christianity Face to Face.”</p>	<p>Show 29 Precursor to Polygamy II July 21st 2009</p> <p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>If you have family or friends who cannot get Heart through television give them a call and tell them to go to WWW.HOTM.TV</p> <p>Our streaming video has been enhanced thanks to one Andy C so we invite you to invite others outside Utah and Idaho to watch online from anywhere in the world!</p>	
<p>We’ve also tried to streamline and improve “I was a Born-Again Mormon” for your convenience, cost and use.</p> <p>Therefore, it is now available online through a downloadable PDF. If you can contribute something for it, you are able. If you can’t afford to pay anything but just want to read it, down load it right there!</p> <p>Go to www.hotm.tv and you can have the book in your hands within minutes.</p> <p>If you prefer a bound copy, were working on it.</p>	

Hey, we meet twice every Sunday to study the Bible verse by verse.

Once at the U of U and once in Logan at Utah State. I have the honor to lead both studies.

Come join us!

Go to www.calvarycampus.com

Everyone is invited. It is a fantastic way to arm yourself against with the truth and against the lies of this world.

Alright, if you are a teenager, if you know or own a teenager, we need your help desperately.

On Saturday August 1st we are filming the introduction to a new television program for teens at West High School on 3rd West in North SLC.

This introduction will play at the beginning of every show so by participating you have the chance of people seeing you every week of the year on television.

It's a half day commitment from 8am till 3pm and we will provide lunch.

Come wearing only black, grey, white or a combination of these hues. Bring your backpacks, skateboards, water bottles for authenticities sake.

The Show that's in development is called The Grey Generation and it will be a live, multi-media call or text in show that will provide alternative answers to problems that plague teens today.

We hope to take it national.

We need 250 teenagers to be in this film shoot.

So not only do we need you to show up, we need you to bring your friends.

Saturday, August 1st, at West High School in North Salt Lake City.

And remember mark thy
calendars, friends, for

Burning Heart 09
The Big Tent Revival

Bands (including Adams Road from
Florida) and some local talent will be
there to inspire you.

Box Lunches from Subway will be
available along with cotton candy,
popcorn, inflated things for the kids,
and booths for the adults.

Then well head inside a giant tent for
the BIG TENT REVIVAL where I am
gonna preach and teach a message of
salvation.

This event is certainly to fellowship,
but we hope those of you who cannot
say that you have been saved –
Mormon, non-Mormon, we don't care
– come join us and give Jesus a
chance.

When: Saturday Sept 5th 2009

Where: Sugarhouse Park

Time: 5 to 8 pm

Who: Everyone but disruptors,
assassins . . . and white men dressed
as Indians.

Why: Worship, gather, meet and greet
and say goodbye to summer.

Burning Heart 09
The Big Tent Revival

Saturday, September 5th 5-8pm.

Finally, is it ever too late to discover the truth.

We received word the other day that an 87 year old LDS woman started watching Heart of the Matter last year.

A few weeks ago, she received in her precious life but aged body the Lord Jesus Christ.

You are never too old, never too sinful, never too far gone, and never too good to receive Jesus and have Him dwell in you.

For the LDS, this is a phrase they never hear – Jesus dwelling in them – but it is certainly biblical.

In John 14:23 Jesus said, “If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”

Has God made His abode with you?

Can you say unequivocally that God dwells in you?

Let me tell you something, people often ask:

How do you know that you are born again? You know you are born again because you have an alien to your flesh living in you – Jesus – God – The Holy Spirit. He makes His home IN you, abides IN you, dwells IN you.

As humans we are VERY well aware that something foreign is in us. I mean, we can tell we have a apple in

And with that, let's have a prayer.	
PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER	PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER
We are embarking on an examination of Mormon polygamy and tonight I want to try and lay out what helps justify the doctrine in the minds of the LDS faithful.	

Now some of these concepts are a bit deep but they are necessary to hear in order to really grasp the LDS world view.

Last week I mentioned two ways human beings approach the origins of matter – or things that we can see, touch, smell, and otherwise somehow identify.

There are those who believe that all matter, at some point, was created out of nothing by God.

Or, there are those who believe that matter has always existed, that it pre-dates even God, and that even God cannot create matter out of nothing.

Now listen closely: These are ultimately our only two options – matter was either created from nothing *OR* matter has always existed.

Got that down?

Christians embrace the former but Latter-day Saint doctrine teaches the latter.

Why?

Christians embrace the biblical account that states “*In the beginning, God . . .*”

When we read beginning, we believe the beginning.

Christians also embrace that “*All things – ALL things – were made*

Well, what do the Christians have to say about it all?	
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The Bible is clear when it states that God is the first, the last, the Alpha and the Omega.

It is clear when it states that He is the creator of all things (as we read).

The Bible is clear that there is only one human being that has a pre-mortal existence – Jesus.

Remember He said to the people:

“I am from above, you are from beneath. You are of this world, I am not of this world.”

He also said, *“Nobody had ever seen the Father at any time.”*

Where Joseph Smith re-placed the Word with a myth, and made angels pre-incarnate or post-incarnate men without wings, the Bible is clear that angels are created beings fitted for the service of heaven, no different creatively than a hippo is created for jungle waters and birds for the air.

Where the LDS claim to be the children of Heavenly Father and Heavenly Mother, (or mothers) the Bible makes it perfectly clear that we are not His children until we have been born-again. We are ONLY his creations, formed from the dust.

Remember John 1:12-13 says

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were

<p>Let's open up the phones: (801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p> <p>First time callers preferably. LDS callers too. Have question ready.</p> <p>Send your question or message in without having to come on the air.</p>	
<p>Emails</p>	

FOUR MINUTES LEFT

Spot

Reminder AUG 1st Film shoot

CONCLUSION

Remember, if Mormonism it true,
then the Bible is full of mistakes and
lies. You choose.

See you next week.

<p>LIVE!</p> <p>From the "Mecca of Mormonism"</p> <p>- Salt Lake City, Utah -</p> <p>THIS . . . is Heart of the Matter . . .</p> <p>"Where Mormonism Meets Biblical Christianity Face to Face."</p>	<p>Show 31 Blindness and Pride</p> <p>August 4th 2009</p>
	<p>And I'm your host, Shawn McCraney</p>
<p>If you have family or friends who cannot get Heart through television give them a call and tell them to go to WWW.HOTM.TV</p> <p>And they can watch through streaming video from anywhere in the world!</p>	
<p><i>"I was a Born-Again Mormon"</i></p> <p>The hard copy is on back order but remember, we recently made the manuscript available online through a downloadable PDF.</p> <p>Go to www.hotm.tv and you can have the book in your hands within minutes for any size donation - or for free for that matter.</p> <p>If you prefer a bound copy, you're going to have to wait.</p>	
<p>Well last Saturday we have about fifty kids show up at West High School.</p> <p>They came from all around the state.</p> <p>We had girls, boys, surfers, skiers, guitar players, punks, hacky-sack players, socialites, and tattooed teenage fathers with babies in their arms.</p> <p>These kids patiently and without pay</p>	

<p>all spent from 8am until after 3pm shooting the introduction for our up and coming teen program.</p> <p>I cannot thank them enough for their willingness, maturity, and generosity.</p> <p>It was hot, they were tired, but they came through like champions and we are so proud to have met each and every one of you.</p> <p>We also thank your parents who supported you in this – many of them staying the whole day too.</p> <p>We'll let you all know when the grey generation is going to be airing.</p>	
<p><i>Now</i>, mark thy calendars for</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Burning Heart 09 The Big Tent Revival</p> <p>This is our fourth annual say goodbye to summer interdenominational get together and we hope you and your churches will participate.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday SEPT 5th 2009 From 5 to 8pm Sugarhouse park</p> <p>Bands (including Adams Road from Florida) and some other local talent will be there to inspire you.</p> <p>We HOPE – we HOPE you will take the initiative and invite people to attend.</p> <p>Box Lunches from Subway will be available along with cotton candy,</p>	

<p>popcorn, inflated things for the kids, and church and ministry booths for the adults.</p> <p>Toward the end we'll head inside a giant tent for the BIG TENT REVIVAL.</p> <p>This event is certainly a time for fellowship, but we hope those of you who cannot say that you have been saved – Mormon, non-Mormon, we don't care – come join us and give Jesus a chance.</p> <p>That's Saturday Sept 5th 2009 Sugarhouse Park 5 to 8 pm</p> <p>Go to www.hotm.tv for sign up information.</p>	
<p>You know, amidst EVERYTHING we cover on the program, there are a thousand side issues in the Mormon/ Christian debates that sometimes go unnoticed.</p> <p>We get the LDS writing us and making huge efforts to defend some single position they think they are misunderstood upon not realizing that there are HUNDREDS of LDS issues that are just not Christian.</p> <p>One of these side issues pop-up before me the other day and thought I would use it as an example tonight.</p> <p>It is no secret among the LDS that they recognize, refer to, and sing about a</p>	

being they call, "Mother in Heaven."

In the LDS Manual, "Achieving a Celestial Marriage, 1976, page 129, it reads:

"For as we have a Father in Heaven, so also we have a Mother there, a glorified, exalted, ennobled Mother."

In an LDS publication called the Juvenile Instructor, dated April 15th 1894 a hymn was printed which was phrased and considered a "prayer to the Goddess" referring to the LDS Heavenly Mother, but nearly a hundred years later, while acknowledging the existence of a "Heavenly Mother," President Gordon B. Hinckley said in a 1991 speech:

"I consider it inappropriate for anyone in the church to pray to our Mother in Heaven."

Still, the affirmation of the existence of God's wife remains. In the present day LDS hymnal, a number titled, "O My Father," has a line, referring to heaven and the existence of a Heavenly Mother, that says:

"Truth is reason,
Truth eternal,
Tells me I've a Mother there."

What would a Christian say about the notion of God the Father having a wife and that we have a Mother in Heaven?

First of all, it flies in the face of how the Bible describes God - three personages

in one. If the One true and living God had a wife, to which personage is she married? The Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit or all three?

Secondly, the idea of a heavenly mother is counter to all the Bible ever says, including the idea that:

God is NOT a man.

God has no beginning or end.

There is none before Him.

He is Spirit.

He is immutable.

The very IDEA that there is a mother in heaven directly implies that God Himself is insufficient – that He is lacking somehow – and needs, well, a wife.

Thirdly, the idea of a mother in heaven is counter to the Bible's teaching that Jesus – the Word – created all things. All. Not a heavenly set of parents in skin and bones copulating to create spirits – but Jesus created ALL things.

It would be illogical and against biblical Christianity to believe the Bible that Jesus created all things and that He had a Mother in Heaven.

Finally, the ONLY time the Bible even mentions what we could consider a female goddess is in Jeremiah.

In Jeremiah 7:18 God speaks of whole families involved in worshipping pagan gods when He says:

“The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead

dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger.”

The Queen of Heaven was actually the female moon goddess Ashtoreth or Astarte: who was the wife of Baal or Moloch, considered the king of heaven.

These male and female pairs of deities symbolized the “generative powers of nature,” and from them came the introduction of prostitution in pagan worship rituals.

Where the idea of a queen in heaven produced prostitution in pagans back in the day, the idea of a mother or mothers in heaven produced polygamy in Mormonism present.

Give that cause and effect some thought.

What is really interesting about the ancient belief in a feminine goddess is what happened to the Children of Israel when they ABANDONED their sacrifices to her. Listen – they said in Jeremiah 44:18:

“But . . . since we stopped burning incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, we have wanted all things, and have been consumed by the sword and by the famine.”

In other words, when they stopped their sacrifices to this pagan goddess their wealth and protection ended.

<p>The God of this world REWARDS with the things of this world.</p> <p>This speaks volumes present day.</p> <p>God is God.</p> <p>He is eternal, omnipotent, uncreated, not a man, and without a wife or wives.</p> <p>There is NO MOTHER IN HEAVEN.</p> <p>And this LDS concept is just another twist from biblical Christianity, one of hundreds in their claims of following the true and living God.</p>	
<p>And with that, let's have a prayer.</p> <p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>	<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>
<p>Last week, we had the pleasure of receiving a most informative if not revelatory call from a man who said his name was "Ed."</p> <p>What made Ed's call so priceless was he embodied - EMBODIED - what we have claimed is the final product of Mormon doctrine:</p> <p>Blindness and Pride.</p> <p>Not ten minutes earlier in the program I read a question from a viewer who asked what amazes me most about the LDS people.</p> <p>My answer: The blindness and the pride.</p> <p>Then Ed called.</p>	

When a math teacher is teaching math and a sparrow flies in the room, the best teachers will put down the math book start teaching about sparrows.

Last week a sparrow – or more like a hawk – flew into the studio and I think the exchange is worthy of review
First, Ed said he wanted to know more about me and asked if he could ask me some questions about my person.

Now, this is far more important to the LDS mind than some viewers might realize for two substantive reasons:

First, the religion is centered on Man – what he is, who he is, what he has done, how successful he is, and how much of a failure he has been – so all people are held up to this scrutiny.

The second reason this is important is because when someone criticizes the LDS faith, the attack is always reversed on the individual having personal failures or bad intent, because the religion is perfect.

Get it?

So Ed said he wanted to know more about me?

(Let's Roll the first segment):

It's important to know that within Mormonism, the GREATEST claim they have consistently made against Christianity has to do with the MONEY pastors and preachers make.

FIRST SEGMENT: Funding 0-1:58

<p>This thinking dates back to the temple where Satan hires a protestant preacher to teach the Gospel, saying he would be “well paid.”</p> <p>Of course they ignore the biblical instructions FROM GOD that it is expected that laborers in the Lords vineyard are worthy of their hire, and have twisted this biblical perspective in order to castigate and condemn.</p> <p>Once I answered his question about how the ministry was funded, we jumped to another classic attack.</p> <p>Let’s watch it:</p> <p>Go to board</p> <p>Last week at our Bible study, we listed on the chalk board descriptions of what people were like in Jesus day who accepted and receive Him and then we described the general characteristics of those who rejected him.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Received</td> <td>Rejected</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unwashed</td> <td>Whited-clean</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sinners</td> <td>Obedient</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Poor</td> <td>Rich</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Broken</td> <td>Accomplished</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Outcast</td> <td>Popular</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not respected</td> <td>Civic/Relig leader</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lawless</td> <td>Lawful</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ill</td> <td>Healthy</td> </tr> </table> <p>Then after listing all sorts of personal and general characterizations, we asked a question: “What is different about those who</p>	Received	Rejected	Unwashed	Whited-clean	Sinners	Obedient	Poor	Rich	Broken	Accomplished	Outcast	Popular	Not respected	Civic/Relig leader	Lawless	Lawful	Ill	Healthy	<p>SECOND SEGMENT: Appearance 1:58-5:15</p>
Received	Rejected																		
Unwashed	Whited-clean																		
Sinners	Obedient																		
Poor	Rich																		
Broken	Accomplished																		
Outcast	Popular																		
Not respected	Civic/Relig leader																		
Lawless	Lawful																		
Ill	Healthy																		

receive and/or reject Him today?

The answer: NOTHING!

Listen to what the Word says in 1st Corinthians 1

1st Corinthians 1:25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: but God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: that no flesh should glory in his presence.

“That no flesh should glory in his presence . . . Ed.”

Let me make this clear once again:

Our ministry appreciates people who are accomplished. But our focus is on the LOST, the DISAFFECTED, and the STRUGGLING LDS who have never had a chance in that faith for one reason or another.

This is who Jesus went to.

Now, I'm unsure of the use of this term. I really try to be transparent in everything I do. Honesty is important to me, though I am not always honest.

Being a fraud has an intonation of presenting something that I know is not true. I think Ed really wants to believe that somehow my entire presentation is fraudulent so as to cope with what he is seeing and hearing.

We then we have an interesting moment. I am trying to think of what to say having been accused of being a fraud and outright liar – that, according to Ed, most everything that comes out of my mouth is a lie.

And so I sort of do a tongue in cheek reversal and make a sarcastic statement:

Now just listen to how Ed reacts to this:

(notes/ comments)

SIXTH SEGMENT: Good Guy 11:17-11:33

(Notes/ comments)

<p>By this time in the discussion, we can see Ed's mindset – a complete product of Mormon doctrine, teachings, and practice, coming through.</p> <p>This opens a window for us to hear the mans heart.</p> <p>Now, remember, he said that, "Of course he is a Christian."</p> <p>His statement was akin to the Pharisees saying matter-of-factly that they had Abraham as their father.</p> <p>"Of course."</p> <p>We'll, now I get to sort of bring it all home. What does it really mean to be a Christian according to the Bible and is Ed truly a Christian?</p> <p>Let's take a listen:</p>	<p>SEGMENT SEVEN: Works 11:33-14:16</p> <p>(notes/comments)</p> <p>One of the MAIN elements of biblical Christianity is the fact that Jesus saves us by His shed blood ONLY.</p> <p>Our works are filthy and meaningless to a God who allowed His incarnate Son to shed His blood for our sins!</p> <p>One verse! Listen</p> <p><i>Galatians 2:16 "Knowing (Ed, knowing) that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we</i></p>
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<p>With one minute left, we summarized the whole matter.</p> <p>This is how it went:</p> <p>(Summary)</p> <p>People who do not know the Lord are ALWAYS asking why we do what we do?</p> <p>People who know the Lord understand.</p> <p>Mormonism produces in it's people a blindness and pride that is antithetical to the spirit and gospel of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>That Gospel, that Good News, has NOTHING to do with our contributions – but it has everything to do with Jesus – with His contributions, with His birth, life, death, and resurrection.</p> <p>We hope this exchange will serve to illustrate – at least to Christians, if not to the LDS – that Mormonism produces a different “good news” one that in the end, is going to prove bad news, after all.</p>	<p><i>might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.”</i></p> <p>EIGHTH SEGMENT: Conclusion 14:16-15:14</p>
<p>All right, lets go to the phones:</p>	

(801) 973-TV20
(801) 873-8820

First time callers, please.
LDS callers if at all possible.
Have our television sets turned down.
And try and ask your questions or
make your comments succinctly and
quickly.

So while the operators are clearing the
calls, lets go to a break and show this
important message about the ministry.

Please know that we appreciate all
your help, support, and love no matter
how it arrives or in what form.

This Partners program just really helps
us plan and manage our affairs in a
timely and sustainable fashion.

Here goes:

(SHOW PARTNERS VIDEO)

EMAILS

Conclusion	
And remember:	
“If Mormonism is true, then the Bible is a lie.”	
See you next week . . .	

<p>LIVE! From the “Mecca of Mormonism . . .” - Salt Lake City, Utah -</p> <p>This is “Heart of the Matter” . . .</p> <p>“Where Mormonism Meets Biblical Christianity Face to Face.”</p>	<p>Show 33 GUEST: The Man in White August 18th 2009</p> <p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p> <p>We have a VERY unique program to present to you tonight.</p> <p>Call all your family and friends right now and tell them to tune in because I think it is going to be a fascinating program with a fascinating guest.</p>
<p>If you have family or friends who can’t watch HOTM on live television, tell them to go to</p> <p>www.hotm.tv</p> <p>and watch it live through streaming video.</p> <p>We retained a Canadian streaming company to expand and improve our streaming capabilities and boy have they come through.</p> <p>People tell me that watching the program through their computer is just as clean and no different than watching it on television.</p> <p>Check it out.</p>	
<p>For two years now we have held Bible studies every Sunday afternoon here in Utah.</p>	

Come and join us and learn the Bible from a non-religious perspective – what I mean by that is we try to teach it without any sectarian bias.

So attend your respective churches in the morning, then join us Sunday afternoons at the University of Utah and then Sunday evenings at Utah State.

Go to www.calvarycampus.com for more information.

Now, this is important – if you can't join us, you can get ALL of our verse by verse teachings online for free at www.calvarycampus.com

We think this is a great resource for people who can't break free to attend in person.

We hope you'll either attend or listen to the audio files at Calvarycampus.com

"I was a Born-Again Mormon" has recently been made available to you through a downloadable PDF.

Go to www.hotm.tv and you can have the book in your hands within minutes for any size donation – or for free, for that matter.

Our objective is not to sell books but to get you to read this insider's perspective of being LDS for forty years and then what it means to be born-again.

<p>Speaking of having been LDS for forty years, my wife got a call from her stake president a few days ago and he requested to meet with both she and I this coming Thursday evening.</p> <p>I will let you know next week what the purpose of the meeting is.</p>	
<p>Coming up! Two and a half weeks – our FOURTH ANNUAL Burning Heart 09 – The Big Tent Revival.</p> <p>Join us Saturday, September 5th from 5 to 8 pm for our statewide – even nationwide – ministerial outreach.</p> <p>At five we'll gather outside, eat, relax, fellowship, and get re-acquainted with each other.</p> <p>Invite your neighbors, family and friends.</p> <p>Christians, Mormons, reprobates – whomever.</p> <p>Then around six, we're going to move into the Big Tent, where Jeremiah's Fire will lead a group worship. We'll hear some testimony's and then Adam's Road (out from Florida) will hit the stage and inspire us with their story and song.</p> <p>I'll take the microphone around 7pm and we'll talk about the ministry, about what the Lord has done, how he has changed entire families, and then we'll share a message that will introduce or reintroduce Jesus to your lives.</p>	

<p>You will have an opportunity to receive what He has offered for two thousand years.</p> <p>We'll do open water baptisms.</p> <p>We'll end in song and a collective time of prayer and worship.</p> <p>We want you there.</p> <p>Come as you are.</p> <p>Saturday. Sept 5th Sugarhouse Park SLC 5 to 8 pm</p>	
<p>I am going to put everything on hold until next week so we can get to our guest.</p>	
<p>Before I invite him on the set, I want to explain a few things.</p>	

Let's open up the phone lines: (801) 973-8820	

<p>(801) 973-tv20</p> <p>Nick is going to be with me on set throughout the show, so call with your questions or comments.</p> <p>While the operators are clearing the calls, let us take a minute and share our Partners program with you.</p>	
Run PARTNERS SPOT	
DEAD SPOT QUESTIONS/TOPICS	

<p>LIVE!</p> <p>From the “Mecca of Mormonism”</p> <p>- Salt Lake City, Utah –</p> <p>THIS . . . is Heart of the Matter . . .</p> <p>“Where Mormonism Meets Biblical Christianity Face to Face.”</p> <p>And I’m your host, Shawn McCraney</p>	<p>Show 34 Examining D&C 132</p> <p>August 25th 2009</p>
<p>If you have family or friends who cannot get Heart through television give them a call and tell them to go to</p> <p>WWW.HOTM.TV</p> <p>They can watch through streaming video from anywhere in the world!</p>	
<p><i>“I was a Born-Again Mormon”</i></p> <p>Available through PDF download at www.hotm.tv</p> <p>Check it out.</p> <p>Go to www.hotm.tv and you can have it in your hands within minutes.</p>	
<p>Okay . . . what is coming up?</p> <p>What is it?</p> <p>That’s right, friends, it’s . . .</p>	
<p>BURNING HEART 09</p> <p>THE BIG TENT REVIVAL</p> <p>Live Bands (including Adams Road from Florida – who are a bunch of returned LDS missionaries who all found Jesus) and Jeremiah’s Fire.</p> <p>Box Lunches from Subway will be</p>	

<p>available along with cotton candy, popcorn, inflated things for the kids, and booths for the adults.</p> <p>Then well head inside a giant tent for the BIG TENT REVIVAL where I am gonna preach and teach a message of salvation.</p> <p>This event is certainly to fellowship, but we hope those of you who cannot say that you have been saved – Mormon, non-Mormon, we don’t care – come join us and give Jesus a chance.</p> <p>When: Saturday Sept 5th 2009 Where: Sugarhouse Park Time: 5 to 8 pm Who: Everyone but disruptors, assassins . . . and white men dressed as Indians. Why: Worship, gather, meet and greet and say goodbye to summer.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BURNING HEART 09 THE BIG TENT REVIVAL</p> <p>Saturday, September 5th 5-8pm.</p>	
<p>Two weeks ago, we ended our program with a last minute call from an LDS man from Brigham City.</p> <p>Of everything he said, he made two statements which I want to address tonight.</p> <p>They are statements that, if you don’t think about them, they seem to make sense in the way he presented them.</p> <p>In reality, however, they are ludicrous.</p> <p>First, he said something like, “I’ve</p>	

watched you talk about blacks and the priesthood and polygamy, but I think you need to look at the big picture," the inference being that we are focusing on issues that are in the past that don't truly reflect Mormonism present or it's wider essence."

Now think about this.

First, if anyone is looking at the "big picture" it is those people who are willing to examine Mormonism and ALL that it has been, all that it is, and all that it continues to be. This is seeing what it truly represents. This is the Big Picture.

There are so many millions who are in Mormonism today who selectively examine it through their own very narrow view.

(HOLD HANDS UP TO FACE)

They see that Jesus Christ's name is in the name of their Church.

(and they say, see, were "Christian" as if that would determine what Christianity is!)

They hear his name used to end their public and private prayers.

(and they say "see, we're Christian")

In other words, they see what will verify their faith, and discard the reality of Mormonism as a whole.

This is NOT looking at the "big-picture."
It's looking for what you want to find.

A true "big-picture" perspective is to examine ALL of Mormonism – not just what you want to use to substantiate your

<p>pet personal beliefs.</p> <p>You want to examine DOCTRINE front to back and see how it compares to the Bible.</p> <p>You want to examine PRACTICES past and present, and see how they have contributed to the thing you embrace today.</p> <p>You want to be able to openly and freely admit that you have discovered that some things in your examination are wrong, are lies, and are evil.</p> <p>If you can't, won't, or don't, you are NOT looking at the "Big Picture."</p> <p>And while I'm at it, let me throw this in for good measure. Can a person who is IN the LDS church speak out for the things they discover to be wrong?</p> <p>No. They will ex-you.</p> <p>This is why I do it. I am in a position to say all that is wrong without any repercussions.</p> <p>The SECOND statement the caller two weeks ago made was the very Mormonitious thinking that says, "when you want to know the truth about something, you go to the source."</p> <p>They say:</p> <p>"If you want to know about a Ford, go to the Ford dealership, not a Chevy dealership."</p> <p>When it comes to getting to the bottom</p>		
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line truth about a billion dollar corporation and the people who love it, this is the most ridiculous logic I have ever heard.

It's like saying, when you want to know the truth about, let's say, Watergate, we should have gone to Nixon.

And when we want the truth about some major fast food chain feeding children dog meat, well go to the corporate officers and to people who just love the chain because it makes them feel so happy inside!

Have you EVER heard anything more ridiculous in your life?

Mormons WANT you to join Mormonism with all their hearts. That is understandable. Many of them truly appreciate what the institution does for them and their families.

These are the true believers.

True believers will say ANYTHING necessary to obscure the tough questions and focus on the positive.

It's sales – pure and simple.

You want the truth about Mormonism? Take the 60 Minutes approach.

Go and speak to a Mormon. Take your toughest questions to them and listen to what they say. Pay particular attention to what they DON'T tell you.

Then go to someone who has left Mormonism and knows their stuff.

<p>Not someone bitter and angry. Just someone who knows their stuff.</p> <p>Sandra Tanner Bill McKeever Aaron Sha</p> <p>There are all sorts of ministries out there and people who know the truth.</p> <p>Then ask them the same questions.</p> <p>The interesting thing is that where the corporation will back their claims up with clean corporate imagery and the true believers will deliver their answers with great sincerity – even tears - those who have been there and left will support what they say with evidence.</p> <p>Let me ask you something: What benefit do we really get when someone from Brazil writes us and tells us they have learned the truth about Mormonism for themselves and are now following the biblical Jesus?</p> <p>We will never meet this person. They will never send us money.</p> <p>What we get is the absolute JOY in knowing that they have been freed from a life of religious bondage and more importantly, have come to a saving RELATIONSHIP with the Lord Jesus.</p>		
<p>All right, our topic for the next two weeks is going to be an actually reading Doctrine and Covenants 132 – which is part of Mormon Scripture today – and detailing for you what that thing actually says.</p> <p>But before we introduce this to you</p>		

<p>tonight, I must give some attention to our guest last week – the Man in White.</p> <p>In our ministry, I can tell when we really struck a nerve when BOTH sides of the fence – the LDS viewers and the Christian viewers – are up in arms over something we have done.</p> <p>When we introduced the term, “Born-Again Mormon” people from both sides freaked out.</p> <p>When I grew my hair, there has been some freaking from the LDS and some freaking from the Christians.</p> <p>Well, my email this week has been nothing short of a freak show.</p> <p>The accusations from all sides range from insanity to horrendousness.</p> <p>People are assigning motives to me and our ministry.</p> <p>They are attacking our guest with all they’ve got.</p> <p>They are telling me I’ve sunk to a new low or that I’ve made a great mistake.</p> <p>So before we have a prayer, I want to shed some light on The Man in White.</p> <p>First of all, he is a real person. He represented himself and his vision. We did not hire him, prompt him, pay him, or tell him what to say. He is not a scripted actor – though it is possible he could be acting.</p> <p>The Man in White stands out on the street on next to the LDS temple – sometimes all day – doing what he believes God has</p>	
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called him to do.

This leads me to a second point. The Man in White says he believes God has called Him to do what he is doing.

Those who know him personally are saying that this is false, that he is deluded, sick, and out of his mind.

And some Christians are saying that what he is doing is evidence of how bad “receiving personal revelation” – which the LDS are big on – can get.

I see both points and agree that there may be some truth to them.

But this was not why we had him on the program. Please hear this again:

We did NOT invite the Man in White on the program to exploit his apparent delusions or to show the LDS how “off” personal revelations can be.

Let me explain our perspective relative to these opinions.

We live in an age where almost everything can be summed up as mental illness. We call this progress in science and medicine.

The manual for diagnosing these illnesses has grown from a single volume being this thick to a multi-volume set with each book being this thick over the past twenty five years.

Our view is that because someone does different things – strange things – very odd and peculiar things – does not mean they are sick. In our opinion, human beings all have mental illness and sickness

is subjectively applied.

Thank God Vincent van Gogh wasn't alive today, they would have put him on something and chained him to a corporate desk somewhere.

John the Baptist?

Jeremiah?

Isaiah?

Jesus?

We truly embrace the idea that God is sovereign and in charge of all things, and I personally stand by the belief that God is using the Man in White – whether you can prove him delusional or not.

Our ministry is to reach out to any and all who have crumbled – in one way or another – under the weight of Mormonism. I believe the Man in White is one of them.

Now, at the same time, Christians who criticize the LDS notion of receiving revelation love and support people who do some very odd things - so long as those things support their Christian cause.

They are more than ready to applaud apparent zealots who bear giant wooden crosses and stumble around abortion clinics in the name of Jesus.

Christians use the term, "I was lead," to do this or that, or, "God has placed this on my heart." These terms are synonymous with Mormon people receiving personal revelation.

Christians are big on saying that personal revelation must be in line with the Bible, but how many Christians do things in their lives that are not given biblical veracity and yet believe they were “led to do them?” PLENTY.

Knock it off. Just knock it all off.

When it comes to doctrine, we stand by biblical authority. But in the day to day nuances of life, Christians believe in personal revelation as much as the LDS – perhaps even more, AND take actions that are outside the pale of biblical support when they do them.

I wanted the Man in White to come on the air for the following reasons, believe them or not:

First, I believe God has, and will continue to use, him to get people to think, examine, and investigate their own hearts.

To the non-LDS, the man in white was an outward picture of how the LDS ultimately want to be – holy, clothed in robes, shining above the rest. And yet the image is unsettling, and gives non-LDS an idea of what the ultimate goal of Mormonism is – human perfection.

To the LDS, the man in white is but a mirror reflection. He is them. His ideals and ideas are theirs only taken to a celestialized extreme.

It was interesting that the one LDS caller we had regarding his appearance was NOT offended that he desired to be “as great as or even better than Jesus Christ,” but that he was wearing their sacred

<p>clothing in public!</p> <p>Can you believe this?</p> <p>This was a live expose on the differences between people who become religious and people who have a RELATIONSHIP with the true and living God.</p> <p>Everything the Man in White said was presented in the most lofty hyperbole - he was honest enough, bold enough, some of you would say insane enough, to tell it like it is.</p> <p>We were immediately draw to him because he is unafraid. Whatever it is that motivated or moved him, the Man in White embodied, to the fullest extent, what Mormonism produces - people who believe they can become God's.</p> <p>And with Jesus Christ being an elder brother within Mormonism, and Joseph Smith himself claiming he had more to boast of than even Jesus Christ, and every faithful Latter-day Saint believing they can become a God, the Man in White was NOT out of line in his desire to become equal to, or better than, my LORD, my God, and my King.</p> <p>(beat)</p> <p>I had a faithful viewer write and state that he believed that having the man in white on the program was a step-backward in the ministry.</p> <p>I wrote back and told him that I believe that this program will do more - around the world - to open LDS eyes, and to stop the progress of Mormonism, than any</p>	
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<p>other program we have done to date. So let's step back now, and watch and see what my God and King will do.</p> <p>And with that, let's have a prayer.</p>		
<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>		
<p>Mormonism lays claim to not just the Bible as the word of God, but additionally three other books of scripture as well as living oracles or prophets who receive revelation for the world.</p> <p>Their three other books are called the Book of Mormon, the Pearl of Great Price and the Doctrine and Covenants.</p> <p>In the Doctrine and Covenants, there are a number of sections, and one of the last to be delivered from God's mouth to Joseph's ear, according to believing Mormons today, is Section 132.</p> <p>Section 132 is interesting on a number of accounts.</p> <p>We have done a lot of talking about it over the years - primarily because it contains the "revelation," Joseph Smith Jr. claims to have received on plural marriage.</p> <p>Every now and again we have members of the Church contact us and say that D&C 132 is NOT about plural marriage.</p> <p>And of course Salt Lake City Mormonism claims today they have nothing to do with plural marriage today.</p> <p>We are going to spend a few weeks going through Section 132 so you can hear for yourself what it says, and then you can ask</p>		

yourself, “And this is still in the LDS book of scripture WHY?”

Section 132 contains 66 verses, and has been called by one commentator of LDS Scripture as “one of the very great revelations in the Doctrine and Covenants.”

In 1831, Joseph Smith was involved in re-translating the Holy Bible (by virtue of spiritual insights he says God gave him).

Sidney Rigdon was his scribe. When he began to read about the Lord’s favor upon His Old Testament prophets, he was perplexed about how these prophets of God ALSO practiced polygyny – which is the taking of more than one wife (polyandry is the taking of more than one husband – both titles fall under the broad name of polygamy – which is what I will use for convenience sake from here on out).

Verse one of Section 132 lays out for us why Joseph received the revelation in the first place:

(READ VERSE 1-2)

Now the date of the publication of this revelation is July 12 1843, but most LDS scholars and researchers agree that the revelation actually was given about twelve years earlier since it is pretty well documented that Joseph Smith practiced plural marriage from as early as 1833.

Vs 52 of Section 132 reveals that here in 1843 Joseph already had a number of wives because it has the LORD say to Emma:

“And let my hand-maiden Emma Smith, receive all those that have been given unto my servant Joseph, AND who are virtuous and pure before me.”

Did you understand this?

Let me repeat it.

Joseph had been secretly practicing plural marriage since around 1833, and here, about ten years later, he delivered a revelation on the subject and in the revelation he has God tell his wife Emma that she is to receive all (the women) that have been “given” to her husband AND . . . AND . . . AND those (other women) who would be found virtuous and pure before Him.”

According to Joseph Smith’s personal and private male scribe, William Clayton:

“On the morning of the 12th Joseph and Hyrum came into the office in the upper story of the brick store on the upper banks of the Mississippi river. They were talking on the subject of plural marriage. Hyrum said to Joseph:

“If you will write the revelation on celestial marriage, I will take it and read it to Emma, and I believe I can convince her of its truth, and you will hereafter have peace.”

Joseph smiled and remarked, “you do not know Emma as well as I do.”

Hyrum persisted and Joseph agreed to write the revelation and have Hyrum deliver it to Emma his wife, saying, “I will

write it and we shall see.”

Hyrum urgently requested that Joseph implement the use of the Urim and Thumim, which was a seer stone he used. Remember, this was 1843 about a year before Joseph’s death, so he obviously was still using said stone late into his life.

Joseph declined, telling Hyrum that “he knew the revelation perfectly from beginning to end.”

The revelation was given and recorded by William Clayton, then Hyrum took it to read to Emma, only to return saying that he “had never received a more severe talking to in his life, that Emma was very bitter and full of resentment and anger.”

Joseph quietly remarked, “I told you you did not know Emma as well as I did.” Then Joseph took the revelation and left the office with Hyrum.

The revelation was shown to a number of men that day and was then copied. William Clayton then said that Joseph related to him and several others that Emma had pestered him so much over the revelation – asking him to destroy it – and that, in order to get rid of her annoyance, he allowed her to do it – knowing full well that it could be replicated at any time.

What I want to leave you with, before we go to the phones tonight is one thought.

It is based on verse 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the revelation.

Remember that Emma Smith rejected the revelation. Remember that Mormonism today, while retaining the revelation in

their scripture, has also publicly renounced and rejected it.

Now listen to what Joseph has the Lord says relative to Section 132. It is SERIOUS business (unless, unless, God says things that aren't really true. Ready?

VERSE three:

"Prepare thy heart to receive and OBEY the instructions which I am about to give unto you, FOR ALL THOSE WHO HAVE THIS LAW REVEALED unto them MUST obey the same."

Does this include Emma? Does it include members of the LDS church today? Is this not their scripture?

"For behold," God says in verse 4, "I reveal unto you a New and Everlasting Covenant; and if ye abide not that covenant, then ye are damned; for no one can reject this covenant and be permitted to enter into my glory."

This passage, in and of itself, is reason enough to believe one of three things – either Joseph was a liar, and was making this up, or God is a liar, and doesn't mean what He says, OR plural marriage is a true part of the New and Everlasting Covenant and the Fundamental LDS people are the only ones who've got it right!

Because verse four states unequivocally, that *"no one can reject this covenant and be permitted to enter into God's glory."*

Verse 5:

<p>“For ALL who will have a blessing at my hands shall abide the LAW which was appointed for that blessing, and the conditions thereof, as were instituted before the foundations of the world.”</p> <p>In other words, friends, plural marriage is an eternal principle, and no blessing can be given unless it is obeyed.</p> <p>Then in verse 6, God tell us, through Joseph Smith, why this covenant was introduced in the first place:</p> <p>“And as pertaining to the new and everlasting covenant, it was instituted for the fullness of my glory; and he that receiveth a fullness thereof MUST and SHALL abide the LAW, or he shall be damned, saith the Lord.</p> <p>It is no wonder, in light of this revelation, that future LDS leaders and prophets have said about polygamy. Listen:</p> <p>(READ quotes)</p> <p>Next week, we’ll continue to examine what the LDS today call scripture, Doctrine and Covenants 132.</p>		
<p>Let’s go to the phones: (801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p> <p>First time callers, please. LDS callers if at all possible.</p>		

Turn down the volume on your sets!		
While the operators are clearing calls, Let's take a minute and remind you or introduce you to our Partner's program.		
RUN PARTNERS SPOT	From a couple who just left Mormonism.	
<p>EMAILS EMAILS EMAILS EMAILS</p> <p>FROM MALAYSIA</p> <p>Raveen</p> <p>Hello there. My name is Raveen and I'm 27 years old. I'm a Malaysian and i've been watching your show on YOUTUBE. Its a really interesting programme. Lately the mormon elders have been coming into my home and teaching me about the LDS church. I felt very welcome into their church and i was hoping to get baptised really soon. I believed everything they said and their teachings.. well.. not until i watched your show.. The one thing that i didn't believe in was THE PROFHET. the present one. to me a.. profhet is a Self Actualized person. A man who couldn't care less about what he looks like. His main objective in life is a focus decision. Well, this may sound funny but i asked the Elders " why is it so important to believe in the profhet? Isn't believing in Jesus Christ more important than anything else?" I'm the way, the truth and the light. I'm so glad that i watched your show. i didn't know a lot things about LDS church and Joseph Smith until now.. and the most disgusting and horrible verse is D&C 132. i read it. I didn't like it. Thanks for saving my life. There are whole lot of people in Malaysia who have been deceived. no doubt it is a muslim country.. 45% of them are non muslims. and people like me, seem to know nothing about Joseph</p>	<p>Shawn, I'm so excited to share this with you! I'm the guy who called your show a few months ago and asked you how I should leave the mormon church? Well I didn't go to fast and testamony meeting and hand my letter to the bishop. My wife wrote a personal letter explaining our concerns with the doctrin of the church and how we found Jesus and how simple the gospel is. I added some of my own things and we also included all the legal wording to streamline the whole thing thanks to Sandra Tanner. The Bishop actually told us we didn't need to meet with him and he took care of everything and we don't need to sign anything to have our records removed and our children's. It was all finished and taken care of with that one letter! However he still wanted to meet with us because he had some questions for us... if that was ok with us? We agreed and set the appointment. This was last Tuesday at 8:30 during your show. We pulled into the parking lot, parked the car and said a prayer. I know that God was with us beyond a shadow of a dout! We walked up to the door and there was the bishop waiting for us. Tracee and I were both very happy we had big smiles on our faces and could not help sharing the love for God and our new found hope in the grace of Jesus. I know the bishop felt it too he started to smile as soon as he greeted us and invited us into his office. The mood was very happy and positive for all of us. Then he started to express his love and concern for us and how difficult this is for HIM. He was trying to bring the mood down to a somber one and as he attempted to do this God said NO WAY! We started to express our love for Jesus and grace and hope in the redemer. And how we became friends with</p>	

Smith and the LDS church cause there's not much information on the internet either. i truly didn't know that Joseph Smith secretly had sex with young girls out of his marriage. i didn;t know that in history the people in Utah many mormon was polygamous had many wives. thanks once again for having your show in Youtube. it's really good. it saved my life. i'll be watching your show everyday. GOD Bless you.

FROM A JEHOVAH'S WITNESS on FACEBOOK

Hello Shawn,

I will try to keep this brief. My name is Brock, I called in to your show earlier this year. I am the Jehovah's Witness:) Well I just wanted to give you my testimony:

I am a 5th Generation Jehovah's Witness and was raised in this religion from my childhood on. My father, a very devoted Elder in the cong. and a great father. My grandpa a prior Presiding Overseer (Basically a Bishop) I will make this very short. My marriage to my wife of two years was winding down and and I relied on the Church as a source of comfort. It seemed the worse my marriage got, the more I tried to WORK in the church since I was very well respected and I was advancing quickly. I had no relationship with God and frankly, That didnt matter to me. I did not even know if God existed. But what did matter, was my own advancement in the Church. Eventually I was divorced my wife and I moved on.

I was so angry at God for not providing me holy spirit when I needed it most. After all, I was doing so much work, why didnt God return the favor right? Well I set aside my concerns and met this wonderful girl named Jody. She was LDS. But this presented a problem. After dating her for awhile I started to realize that our religions would not work!

"good christian" people and he jumped all over that and said "we aren't good christians?". This did not even phase us we were so filled with gods love we were just going of on how our lives are changed and how happy we are now. We were quoting scriptures and were 100% totally in the Jesus zone! This went on for about 20 min and then we felt compleate I looked at Tracee and she said to the bishop "I sorry did we cut you off? Was there something you wanted to say?" and he was just dumb founded and he kinda shook his head slowly and said "no" as if he wasn't sure what just happened. I could tell he was searching for words but didn't know what to say. Again he tried to make things sad and how we will be missed and how much he cares for us and loves us. At this point he knew he could not bring down to any admision of guilt or sadness for leaving the church. We shook hands, no hug and expressed thanks for his concerns an we walked out of that office on top of the world! This was the best bishop intreview ever!!! And the last!!!!!!!!!!!! Praise God! I know he is with us in our journey to becomeing true Christians. Thanks for the show it is a great support for our family.

So just to make her happy, I started to research Mormonism, and read the Book of Mormon, all this time in the back of my mind, I knew I would be able to prove mormonism wrong, and bring her to my religion, A Jehovah's Witness:) SO I studied, and I studied, and I went to UTLM.ORG and found some real gems! Everything that I brought to Jody's attention only made her disaffected and emotional.

Then I stumbled across one of your video clips on youtube. I couldn't get enough! It was so great to hear you talk about Mormonism compared to the Bible! I started taking notes, and took an active part in USING MY BIBLE! I had used the bible my whole life and memorized many scriptures but I was now reading them differently. The big trouble is when you started reading things that contradicted my own religion! This caused me to break down. 3 more months of watching your show gave me hope. And I stopped attending my Kingdom Hall. I relied on your show as my Church. However you encourage your listeners to go to Church for yourself. So the next day at work I recalled a moment in my Kingdom Hall when an Elder made a comment about a Local Calvary Church being constructed down the road, and the entire audience Gasp! So that is the one that I decided to go to. And it worked out perfect! On Feb 8 of this year on my day off, I went up to the church office and told them that I was a Jehovah's Witness, they were very willing to bring out an associate pastor to talk to me. He told me how Truth was not in a Building, it was in Jesus Christ! Among so much other things, he answered my questions about holidays, being Born Again and I remembered everything you told me. That day, after I left, I prayed to God and asked for his Grace! I went to church that day and felt so at home! I took sacrament for the first time in my life (Witnesses only believe 144,000 people can partake of the emblems) I knew I was saved.

About a month later I convinced my Girlfriend Jody to attend. She felt a little out of place because of the

<p>singing and the lifting up of the hands, but loved the message. Jody started attending again, and again. And it got to the point where she was reminding me to go to church!</p> <p>I kept praying to God that Jody would have a relationship with him. Jody was scared to commit to anything since her ENTIRE family and friend base are Mormons (as you can see on our friend list on facebook)</p> <p>But last sunday, the guest pastor started talking about in Matthew, the illustration of the Virgins attending the wedding festival, and some were not prepared, some did not ave oil in their lamps (Holy spirit) and he started talking about how we need our own relationship with God, going to church, reading your bible has NOTHING TO DO WITH IT. And when talking about testimony, he said "Get your own"</p> <p>He invited anybody in the audience who has not entered into a relationship with Christ to please raise their hand. At that moment, JODY RAISED HER HAND! She stood up and repeated the prayer and asked to be saved in front of everybody! She said that she could feel the loving Grace of Christ Jesus that day! This was last sunday and she is already talking to me like a Christin, using terms like Grace and Salvation! She has never done this before, I can actually tell she has the holy spirit. She is very nervous to tell her family, and friends, but she says she is ready for when it happens!</p> <p>I just wanted to thank you shawn for helping us in this spiritual journey this last year and a half. No doubt your program has assisted in both of us coming into the understanding of what it means to be saved. Jody admitted that your preaching style was a little harsh on people, but she is reading through your book now and we both watch your program every week:)</p> <p>God Bless,</p> <p>Brock</p>		

:30 seconds		
Hey! We hope you and everyone of your neighbors will join us at Sugarhouse Park on Saturday, September 5 th at 5pm for our Big Tent Revival.		
God bless, see you next week, here on Heart of the Matter.		

<p>LIVE! From the "Mecca of Mormonism" - Salt Lake City, Utah -</p> <p>THIS . . . is Heart of the Matter . . .</p> <p>"Where Mormonism Meets Biblical Christianity Face to Face."</p>	<p>Show 35 ADAM'S ROAD September 1st 2009</p>
	And I'm your host Shawn McCraney.
<p>If you have family or friends who cannot get Heart through television give them a call and tell them to go to WWW.HOTM.TV And they can watch through streaming video from anywhere in the world!</p>	
<p><i>"I was a Born-Again Mormon"</i></p> <p>The hard copy is on back order but remember, we recently made the manuscript available online through a downloadable PDF.</p> <p>Go to www.hotm.tv and you can have the book in your hands within minutes.</p> <p>This is the way we are providing the book free to folks who cannot afford a hard copy.</p> <p>Hope this helps.</p>	
<p><i>THIS WEEKEND – SATURDAY SEPT 5th</i></p> <p><i>From 5 to 8 pm</i></p> <p><i>We really hope you will join us for our fourth annual</i></p>	

<p>Burning Heart 09 The Big Tent Revival</p> <p>Come join us for food, fellowship, some fun and an opportunity to receive what Jesus came to this earth to give.</p> <p>We're going to begin at 5pm in a meet and greet.</p> <p>Subway sandwiches will be available along with other food, slides for the kids, ministry booths etc.</p> <p>Then around six six thirty were going to head inside for worship by Jeremiah's Fire, some testimonies, and then we'll hear from Adam's Road – who will be our guests here on the program tonight.</p> <p>I'm going to preach the Word, we're going to give everyone to receive Jesus, and then we are going to have an open water baptism for any and all who want to publicly profess their identification with the Lord Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Please join us.</p> <p>This Saturday evening. Sugarhouse Park 5-8pm The Big Tent Revival.</p> <p>Go to www.hotm.tv for more information.</p>	<p>(GRAPHIC: HOTM.TV)</p>
<p>We want to give you a sampling of our up and coming new program for teens called the Grey Generation.</p>	

<p>It's going to air Saturday nights at 10:30pm beginning October 3 - check out the shows opener:</p>	<p>RUN GREY GENERATION OPENER</p>
<p>We are so excited about this programming and are doing all we can to make it something our teens can tune in to that will give them some sound direction amidst our culturally depraved world.</p> <p>Tell your kids - Saturday night, 10:30pm - The Grey Generation, right here on TV 20.</p>	
<p>We want to thank each of your for your emails, stories, testimonies, and for passing along your insights and information to us.</p> <p>We are really behind in answering our emails but we get them, read them, and appreciate all of them.</p> <p>Additionally, we recognize the many things you do on behalf of the ministry.</p> <p>Your letters, your financial contributions, your prayers, and your sharing our ministry with your family and friends does more than what you might ever imagine in keeping the ministry alive.</p>	
<p>It is very important to us here at Alatheia Ministries to remain very open and accepting of people even when they are different than us.</p> <p>Obviously, we will argue doctrine and praxis to the death, and we will fight for honest communications - but in</p>	

terms of love, our hope is to love all people – despite our differences.

We believe this is our duty as Christians – to love.

When Jesus was about to be taken from the garden of Gethsemene to the cross, Peter errantly and arrogantly that he needed to defend the Lord with the sword – and he smote off an officer named Malchus’s ear.

Jesus said:

“Put away your sword” and then He healed the wounded soldier.

Somehow, in the fanatic mind of the Christian today, there remains the delusion that Jesus needs to be defended instead of sinners needing to be loved.

We believe that our duty, as Christians, is to love unconditionally.

Not to wound, nor slay, nor attack – but to respond to the condemned world with love.

Often, our methods in ministry are misconstrued. Where the Christian fanatics want ideological (and one has to wonder if not literal bloodshed of those who are different then them) the LDS say our attacking the tenets of their faith is antithetical to real love.

Not so – on either account.

Let me make our position clear:

<p>We will not attack any people or their beliefs if those beliefs are <i>honestly presented</i>.</p> <p>This is the reason we do not attack non-Christian religious groups like Islam or Buddhism. This is why I did not attack the man in white.</p> <p>Our response to these people is love – while sharing Jesus if at all possible.</p> <p>We will, however, criticize and expose any group who are dishonest in their presentations of faith in order to appear Christian when their doctrines and practices are obviously not.</p> <p>All of it, in the end, we hope to execute in love.</p>	
<p>More and more frequently we receive emails from all over the world – but especially from here in Utah – from people who are leaving Mormonism because they have found Jesus.</p> <p>I received an email yesterday from a family member of a man who I will call JOHN DOE. I am acquainted with John and know that he is LDS but has come to know the real Jesus.</p> <p>This is what the email said:</p> <p>“You must be so proud. JOHN DOE is one of your new converts away from the “corrupt” LDS church. He is losing his wife, his kids, family and friends in the process. Sounds exactly like what Christ would want him to do. Your corrupt organization will be held accountable one day for tearing apart families. Unbelievable how you can</p>	

harbor so much animosity and hatred for a Religion that helps so many.

Congrats on your new toy, JOHN DOE, from Draper.

Before we go to the break, I really hope you will all take a minute and examine this thinking with me.

First! This man John Doe came to know the real and living Jesus through rebirth.

We had nothing to do with this - God did.

Second! John is not losing his family and friends, and kids, and wife because he is telling them goodbye. A man following Jesus would never want to leave his family and friends. No, John is "losing his wife, and kids, and family, and friends because THEY are pulling from him. Why?!

We have a man here who has come to KNOW Jesus as his sovereign King and Lord and for this reason, you are all walking away from him.

"A religion that helps so many?" Ha! It is this religion you hail that is breaking up this man's life.

[illegible]

<p>I want to thank Adam's Road:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1.2.3.4.5. <p>Hey, join us – please – and bring your family and friends – at</p> <p>Burning Heart 09 The Big Tent Revival</p> <p>This Saturday, 5-8pm Sugarhouse Park</p> <p>All are welcomed.</p> <p>See you there.</p>	

<p>LIVE!</p> <p>From the “Mecca of Mormonism”</p> <p>- Salt Lake City, Utah -</p> <p>THIS . . . is Heart of the Matter . . .</p> <p>“Where Mormonism Meets Biblical Christianity Face to Face.”</p>	<p>Show 36 Faith without love is dead</p> <p>Sept 8th 2009</p> <p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>If you have family or friends who cannot get Heart through television give them a call and tell them to go to WWW.HOTM.TV</p> <p>And they can watch through streaming video from anywhere in the world!</p>	
<p>I was a Born-Again Mormon is available for you to download through a PDF.</p> <p>Go to www.bornagainmormon.com to get it through this avenue.</p> <p>If you don’t have a computer, we are working on getting the hard copy version done.</p>	
<p>How about a moment in History.</p> <p>July 1967 - a priesthood bulletin from Church headquarters prohibited women from praying in LDS sacrament meetings.</p> <p>This practice was changed in _____. Remember when it occurred.</p> <p>I suppose God thought it was improper and dangerous to hear public prayers from women during those _____ years.</p> <p>(Wink 9</p>	

<p>Well, my friends, we had a truly blessed day last Saturday at Burning Heart 09 – the Big Tent Revival.</p> <p>Our statisticians tell me there were somewhere between 7 and 9 hundred people who joined us for an evening of fun, fellowship, worship, and commitments to Jesus.</p> <p>Jeremiah’s Fire warmed us up with some exception sounds.</p> <p>Pastor Kevin Kennington exhibited the strength of the Lord by busting through blocks of wood with his bare hands . . .</p> <p>Adam’s Road inspired the crowd with their unique musical testimony of how God led them out of Mormonism and into the arms of Jesus . . .</p> <p>I spoke about making a choice for Jesus . . .</p> <p>Then we ended the night with what can only be described as a glorious, revival-like baptism event where eighteen people of all walks and back grounds came forth and publicly professed their commitment to the Sovereign Lord.</p> <p>Each of them touched me personally, as I was familiar with many of their personal stories. But it was also a beautiful sight to watch people I have never seen before walk up and out of the crowd - fully clothed - publicly confess Jesus, and receive baptism due to their faith in Him.</p>	

<p>Once everyone was through the Lord blessed me personally as my own middle daughter, Cassidy, came forward, and submitted her person to our God and King.</p> <p>He is faithful -even when we are not. He is good, even when we fail. He is worthy of all honor and praise.</p> <p>I thank and praise Him for all He has done in the past, all He is doing in the present, and all I know He is going to continue to do in the future.</p> <p>Let's see some photos.</p>	<p>(Show SLIDE SHOW HERE)</p>
<p>Speaking of things He is doing and continuing to do, on October 3rd – a Saturday night – Alatheia Ministries is launching a live call-in television program for TEENS.</p> <p>We've called it "The Grey Generation, and we think it is not only going to be entertaining and informative, we think it is something every teens need in this age of insane ideologies and values.</p> <p>You might remember when we did a casting call when we did the shoot for the opening and closing of Grey Generation a month or so ago . . .</p> <p>(beat) . . .</p> <p>Well here it is. Take a look.</p> <p>(SHOW Grey Generation Opener)</p>	<p>(Graphic Grey Generation)</p> <p>(SHOW Grey Generation Opener)</p>

<p>Like Heart of the Matter, the Grey Generation will be available all over the world via streaming video and all of the programs will be archived and available online.</p> <p>This show is NOT about Mormonism. It is about the cultural war going on in our word and the depredations that are being heaped on our children as a result.</p> <p>We are hoping the ENTIRE Christian community will rally behind this show – support it – talk about it – and get the high school kids of this state, this nation, and even the world to tune in.</p> <p>Go to www.thegreygeneration.tv for more information – like how to help us launch the show out into your community.</p>	
<p>Alright . . .</p> <p>Why do we do what we do? What is the bottom line? Our hope?</p> <p>If we step back to the start of this ministry we will see the very same objectives in place - to help individual members of the LDS Church experience spiritual regeneration . . . that they will be “born-again.”</p> <p>To understand spiritual rebirth without having been spiritually reborn is sort of like trying to understand the death of a loved one when nobody you have loved has ever died.</p> <p>You can’t really know it intimately until it occurs.</p>	

<p>Because of this, people often ask,</p> <p><i>"Well, what happens when a person is born-again? How can I tell if I am?"</i></p> <p>Often, LDS people, because they have not experienced spiritual rebirth, make comments like, <i>"I am born-again because I am a member of the Mormon Church!"</i></p> <p>Or they misinterpret spiritual rebirth and reclassify it by saying it means <i>"to obey the commandments,"</i> or <i>"to feel good inside,"</i> you know, about <i>"themselves, about their families, about the direction of their lives."</i></p> <p>I recently read an article that quoted perhaps one of the best recorded descriptions of what occurs in the heart and life of a person when they experience rebirth – when God changes their heart . . . when He takes their head knowledge and moves it to a personal "heart reality."</p> <p>The great French mathematician, philosopher, and thinker, Blaise Pascal spent much of his life defending the existence of God through reason, logic, and common sense.</p> <p>He is the author of what many Christian people recognize as "Pascal's wager."</p> <p>After he died, they found sewn into the lining of his winter coat a note. On this note Pascal had written his reaction – his description – of what happens when a person is born-again.</p> <p>The parchment read:</p>	
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"Year of grace 1654. Monday, 23 November, feast of St. Clement . . . from about half past ten at night to about a half and hour after midnight (beat) . . . FIRE.

"God of Abraham, God of Isaac, God of Jacob, not of philosophers and scholars. Certitude, heartfelt joy, peace. God of Jesus Christ. God of Jesus Christ. "My God and your God . . . Joy, Joy, Joy, tears of Joy . . . Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ. May I never be separated from Him."

(beat)

Have you experienced an event in your life where you cannot help but worship, praise, and rejoice over Jesus?

My friends, my brothers, my sisters . . . we do NOT care where you presently attend church. God will guide you where He wants His children to be.

But you've got to become His child first!

Our prayer is that before, above, and in spite of everything else – you have experienced something as profound as the genius Frenchman, Blaise Pascal.

We want to know if you have been born again, because remember, Jesus Himself said: It MUST happen in order for anyone to see the Kingdom of God.

PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER

And with that, let's have a prayer.	
<p>Last week, when Adam's Road was on the set, we received a caller from a Latter-day Saint who ended his comments with a claim.</p> <p>He said something to the effect that salvation was a matter of grace and works and that ANYONE who reads the Epistle of James would see for themselves that this is true.</p> <p>Because we were on a tight schedule with the "band of prophets," I didn't take the time on air to address this man's claim and moved on quickly.</p> <p>I received a handful of emails from LDS people asking me why I "<i>dodged</i>" <i>this callers point?</i>"</p> <p>Some suggested that he had confounded me. Others that I was "<i>afraid of someone who spoke the truth?</i>"</p> <p>Anyone who has ever had a discussion with a Latter-day Saint about salvation knows that sooner or later they will quote, at least in part, from the second chapter of James where it says:</p> <p><i>"Faith without works is dead."</i></p> <p>I mean it is such a kneejerk retort that I might even suggest that it is the most known Bible verse among the Mormons.</p> <p>I've got nothing to back that up, but suspicion.</p> <p>Anyway . . . even though we are in the</p>	

middle of examining the LDS Doctrine and Covenants section 132, I think this is an extremely important doctrinal topic in the Christian/Mormon "dialogue" and I want to take a moment to share how badly these verses in James are manipulated by the LDS who are bent on selling their counterfeit gospel.

Please, go grab your Bibles and go to James chapter 2 before we open up the phone lines.

It will help immeasurably in your comprehension of this book and of the LDS misuse of it.

It is one of the last books in the New Testament right before the Epistles of Peter.

Now, as you are getting your Bibles, try and remember a few rules about SOUND biblical study.

Rule Number One:

All things must be seen as truth and the truth will not contradict itself.

Therefore, if the Bible says in one place, "All dogs in heaven are white," and in another place it says that "as a boy, Jesus had a dog that was black that went up into heaven with Him," it does not mean that the Bible is wrong. Both statements can be true while at the same time allowing for the idea that Jesus dog went to heaven.

Maybe Jesus dog turned white before entering the pearly gates.

Differences does NOT mean contradiction.

Therefore, if the Bible says:

(Ephesians 2:8-9) "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

And it also says:

James 2:17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

There must be a reasonable explanation of them, right?

And there is.

Aside from "praising Men," "cherry-picking" scriptures is a favorite activity of the LDS and this is one of the first to get plucked off the tree.

When the context of a passage is not regarded, its use in a discussion ought to be considered irrelevant until the context is explored.

Pulling verse out is like Beethoven's 5th being played with only one piano key or a 747 trying to take flight without the wings, tail, or landing gear.

Context is everything.

So let's read from James chapter 2 and examine the context of this chapter and what other parts of the word says

<p>about faith and works.</p> <p>In this manner, we will determine if the LDS application of these verses hold water or not.</p>	
	<p>First of all, James sets the stage and the context of this chapter by talking about how we, as Christians, ought to treat others.</p> <p>As you read, ask yourself:</p> <p><i>“Why is James writing this, and how does this apply to what he writes about faith and works?”</i></p> <p>Let’s start with verse 1:</p>
<p><i>James 2:1 My brethren,(so it’s to Christians to whom he is speaking) have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.</i></p> <p><i>2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with <u>a gold ring</u>, in <u>goodly apparel</u>, and there come in also <u>a poor man</u> in <u>vile raiment</u>;</i></p> <p><i>3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:</i></p>	<p>So right off the bat, James is writing to the brethren and telling them to resist the inclination to “respect persons.”</p> <p>What does he mean when he says, “respect of persons?” Well he gives us an example. (verses 2-5)</p>

4 Are ye not then *partial in yourselves*, and are become *judges of evil thoughts*?

5 Hearken, my beloved brethren,
Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

6 But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

7 Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

In other words, don't look on people and prefer them because they are well dressed or wealthy.

Get rid of partiality.
Stop giving preferential treatment to some.
Love, receive, and accept all equally.

Then he says:

It seems the brethren had fallen into the despicable habit of falling all over themselves for the rich while hating those who were of a lower social rank.

And James reminds them of several things:

First, that God has chosen the poor of this world, not the rich.

Second, James reminds them that the rich oppress Christians and bring them before Judges – why give them honor.

And then he reminds them that they

<p>8 ¶ <i>If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well.</i></p> <p>9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.</p> <p>10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.</p> <p>11 For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.</p>	<p>blaspheme “that worthy name” by which they are called – Christian.</p> <p>Got it?</p> <p>Then he pulls in the main theme of this entire chapter, saying:</p> <p>What is the royal law according to scripture he quotes relative to the context of this chapter?</p> <p>Love thy neighbor as thyself.</p> <p>Love.</p> <p>Love.</p> <p>Then James goes on and tells them that they have failed because they have failed to love and have become transgressors of everything God stands for – which is all based in LOVE.</p> <p>What law is a respecter of persons in violation of? The two great ones:</p> <p>Loving the Lord with all thine heart</p>
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14 What doth it profit, my brethren,
though a man say he hath faith, and
have not works? can faith save him?

point to these brethren who were not loving others equally. (Verse 14)

What works is he talking about? Is he talking about keeping Sabbath days? Is he talking about doing righteous acts like fasting, paying tithing, etc.

This is the question of James chapter 2.

What does he mean by “Works.”

Well, what is the context of this book – receiving and respecting the poor – in other words, **LOVING** them.

The WORK in the verses about faith
and works are LOVE.

Faith without unadulterated,
unconditional, unbiased, unelitist
LOVE for all is dead.

Listen to the example he then gives!

15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,
16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?
17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.
18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.
19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe,

and tremble.

20 But wilt thou know, O vain man,
that faith without works is dead?

James is telling these errant brothers,
you claim to believe in Jesus but you
don't love as He commanded.

You see, as Christians, we have two
commandments. The first is to believe.

Remember when the people came to
Jesus and asked Him how they can
work the works of God?

And what did He say:

John 6:29 This is the work of God, that
ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

The second commandment of Jesus to
His followers is to love.

Remember what He said in John 13:34:

*A new commandment I give unto you,
That ye love one another; as I have loved
you, that ye also love one another. By this
shall all men know that ye are my disciples,
if ye have love one to another.*

This double command is summarized
beautifully in 1st John chapter 3 verse
22-23:

LISTEN CLOSELY as John the beloved
wrote:

And whatsoever we ask, we receive of
him, **because we keep his
commandments**, and do those things
that are pleasing in his sight.

<p>21 Was not Abraham our father</p>	<p>Now listen!</p> <p>And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.</p> <p>Through our belief in Him we are saved, and through our love for others, we will know – and men can see – that we are saved . . . that Jesus lives in us.</p> <p>THIS HAS NOTHING WHATSOEVER TO DO WITH WORKS in the sense of works being labors, rites, ordinances, or setting up chairs out of obligation.</p> <p>Now, when Jesus was approached by a lawyer in Matthew, he asked Jesus, tempting him:</p> <p><i>36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?</i></p> <p><i>37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.</i></p> <p><i>38 This is the first and great commandment.</i></p> <p><i>39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.</i></p> <p><i>40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.</i></p> <p>Now, just listen to whom James uses as example of “work” in the final verses of James 2.</p>
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justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?
22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?
23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.
24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

Now, let's read these passages again, and replace the word works with Love, which is perfectly appropriate.

Ready?

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by LOVE, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?
22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his LOVE, and by LOVE was faith made perfect?
23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.
24 Ye see then how that by LOVE a man is justified, and not by faith only.

What LOVE was Abraham – the father of all faith exemplifying by offering his son on the altar?

<p><i>25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?</i></p>	<p>His perfect love for the Lord His God, the first great commandment.</p> <p>Can you see that?</p> <p>Abraham loved his Lord God more than himself, more than his own son, more than anything else!</p> <p>But WAIT! Is there only one commandment for the Christian? Love the Lord thy God only?</p> <p>No. We are to love our neighbor as ourselves.</p> <p>And what is the second example does James use speaking of faith and works?</p> <p>Verse 25</p> <p>Rahab the harlot? Obviously, James was not referring to works of perfected flesh when he used Rahab the Harlot.</p> <p>Read it again and replace works with LOVE.</p> <p><i>25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by love, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?</i></p> <p>What did Rahab the Harlot exemplify?</p> <p>James uses her because she exemplifies the second great commandment – “she</p>
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<p>26 <i>For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without love is dead also.</i></p>	<p>loved her neighbors as herself.”</p> <p>How?</p> <p><i>(Tell story of Jericho and Rahab’s selfless acts to save the Israelite spies.)</i></p> <p>James finalizes his point in chapter two by explaining to these brethren that if they really are believers, they will love – they can’t help it. So he says:</p> <p>There is perhaps no better lesson missing from the hearts of collective Mormonism than a contextual understanding of James 2.</p> <p>Let’s open up the phone lines:</p> <p>(801) 973-8820 (801) 973-8820</p> <p>First time callers, please. LDS please. Turn down the darn volume.</p> <p>While the operators are clearing the calls, please consider a message about our ministry “partners” program.</p>
<p>EMAILS</p>	

[illegible]

<p>LIVE!</p> <p>From the “Mecca of Mormonism”</p> <p>- Salt Lake City, Utah -</p> <p>THIS . . . is Heart of the Matter . . .</p> <p>“Where Mormonism Meets Biblical Christianity Face to Face.”</p>	<p><i>Show 37 Doctrine and Covenants 132 part II</i> <i>September 15th 2009</i></p> <p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>If you have family or friends who cannot get Heart through television give them a call and tell them to go to WWW.HOTM.TV</p> <p>And they can watch through streaming video from anywhere in the world!</p>	
<p><i>“I was a Born-Again Mormon”</i></p> <p>We recently to make the manuscript available online through a downloadable PDF.</p> <p>Go to www.hotm.tv and you can have the book in your hands within minutes for any size donation – or for free for that matter.</p> <p>If you prefer a bound copy, wait a few weeks and we’ll have them available again.</p>	
<p>I’ve got a question for you?</p> <p>How well do you know your Bible? Would you like to know it better?</p> <p>We meet every week throughout the year for an hour on Sundays to study the Bible verse by verse.</p> <p>I teach at UofU at 2:30 and then at 7pm</p>	

<p>at Utah State in Logan.</p> <p>Marcus teaches in Ogden Wednesday nights.</p> <p>Go to www.calvarycampus.com for more information like location and directions.</p> <p>We're finding that people from all over come and so there is a social element to the study's as well. All are welcome.</p>	
<p>In six weeks – Saturday Night, October 31st, 10:30pm – we're launching our new program for teens and young adults, the Grey Generation.</p> <p>We need volunteers to help us with production.</p> <p>First volunteer meeting, Saturday morning, October 3rd, here at the KTMW station at 11:00 am.</p> <p>Go to www.thegreygeneration.tv for more information like directions.</p> <p>How about another look at the show opener?</p> <p>(RUN SHOW OPENER HERE)</p> <p>Also, if you are a Christian musician – soloist, band, guitar, pianist - we would love to highlight your skill on the program.</p> <p>Send us a tape, dvd, or some kind of demo of your skill along with your contact information and we'll see about giving you some time live and on the air.</p>	

<p>(www.thegreygeneration.tv)</p>	
<p>How about a moment in LDS history?</p> <p>On February 5th 1852, Brigham Young announced a policy of denying the priesthood to all men of black African ancestry, saying that <i>“even if there never was a prophet, or apostle of Jesus Christ who spoke it before”</i> the <i>“negroes are the children of old Cain . . . any having one drop of the seed of Cain in him cannot hold the priesthood.”</i> This LDS policy stood for the next 126 years.</p> <p>So where Jesus broke down ALL barriers, Mormonism put them right back up.</p> <p>“Follow the prophet, follow the prophet, follow the prophet . . . he knows the way.”</p>	
<p>Well, last week, I prefaced my monologue by saying that one of the favorite activities of many LDS, aside from praising Man, was cherry-picking scriptures – you know, pulling them out of context and wrongly applying them in order to support their pet LDS perspective.</p> <p>When we started taking calls one Joe from Clinton, Utah, an LDS man, must not have heard my comments on the subject and, well, started in doing the “cherry-pickers waltz.”</p> <p>I danced with him for awhile, which is truly against my better judgment. Then just when he had danced himself into a scriptural corner using passages from the Bible, the program ran out of time.</p>	

We were talking about being saved, and in an effort to bolster his argument that we must work to receive salvation, he cherry-picked a favorite LDS verse from Matthew chapter seven, which says:

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”

By the tone of his voice, you would have thought he was read something that said:

“Verily, verily, believing in Jesus and confessingeth Him is insufficient, for you have to worketh your braineths out -eth . . . Shawneth.”:

Joe didn’t even see that that he became an actual living example of Latter-day Saint cherry-picking scripture.

How?

In a couple of very profound ways.

First, if he had only continued to read!

What does Jesus say in the next verse? He clarifies the context of why people are saying, “Lord, Lord!”

Listen! He says:

“Many will say to me in that day,

*"Lord, Lord," have we not
prophesied in thy name? and in thy
name have cast out devils? and in
thy name done many wonderful
works?*

*And then will I profess unto them, I
never knew you: depart from me, ye
that work iniquity.*

The context of these passages are that
people will come and say to Jesus,
Lord, Lord, look at our good Works!
Our many wonderful works.

The LDS interpret this passage to be
saying "Not everyone who confesses
Jesus name - Lord, Lord - will be
saved, but Jesus clarifies why they are
even saying, Lord, Lord - they are
saying that in His name they have done
many good works.

His reply is, you can do what you want
in my name, but if it is not from doing
the will of my Father, you're outta
here.

And what does it mean, literally,
contextually, in the New Testament, to
do the will and works of the Father?

We went to great lengths last week to
explain this I guess we'll have to
explain it again.

The day after Jesus fed the masses
fishes and loaves, as recorded in John
six, they followed Him and he told
them in so many words:

"Don't work for food that perishes but

<p>for the food that endures unto eternal life, which the Son shall give you.”</p> <p>Well the people replied to Jesus saying,</p> <p><i>What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?</i></p> <p><i>How do we do the will of the Father?</i></p> <p><i>And Jesus said</i></p> <p><i>“This is the work of God, <u>that ye believe</u> on him whom he hath sent.”</i></p> <p>Within the walls of Mormonism, you will hear on any given Sunday that they must obey the commandments.</p> <p>Obey the commandments. Obey the commandments.</p> <p>What are we commanded as confirmed Christians to do?</p> <p>Believe on Him whom He has sent and then to Love.</p> <p>Everything else stems from these commands.</p> <p>To “do the will of God” is to believe on His Son,” friends.</p> <p>The works we do as a result of this belief are works of, from, and based in love for God and Man.</p> <p>Having said and PROVEN this, we could have then pulled out all kinds of contextual verses that prove the works of God, since the ascension, do NOT</p>	
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<p>include . . .</p> <p>Sabbath-day observances. Ordinances, rites, or rituals. Mandatory tithes and offerings. Temples endowments Eternal marriages. Faux priesthoods. Health codes and restrictions. Joining a religion or church, or dedicating all your wealth and talents to the building up of some religious giant.</p> <p>Believe that He is God and love based on how this belief works within you.</p> <p>This, in summary, is the Gospel.</p> <p>And with this, let's have a prayer</p>	
<p>Three weeks or so ago we introduced the first verses of Section 132 from the LDS scriptures called the Doctrine and Covenants.</p> <p>We talked about how in the introductory verses of this section, Joseph Smith claimed that God said that if a person has a "law revealed to them, they MUST obey it or they will be damned."</p> <p>In Section 132, which remains in Mormon body of scripture today, Joseph claimed God revealed his will concerning polygyny - or the taking of multiple wives.</p> <p>According to what section 132 says, this law MUST be obeyed or the people who have read it will be damned if they don't embrace it.</p>	

We left off at verse six.

In verse seven through fourteen, Joseph has the “Lord” lay out the conditions of this new Law, and in essence has Him say that no matter what is done in this world, if it is NOT done by God and His power and authority – meaning through the LDS priesthood – these things will NOT remain after men are dead – including marriage. But whatever is of or from Him and His authority, these things will, it says, “*never be shaken or destroyed.*”

Got that?

Then in verse fifteen, the revelation states:

“Therefore, if a man marry him a wife in the world, and he marry her not by me nor by my word . . .” and the revelation goes on to say that such a marriage will end at death.

And if this is the case, verse sixteen goes on to say that all those who are married on earth in this fashion will be *“appointed as angels in heaven, which angels are ministering servants, to minister for those who are worthy of a far more, and an exceeding, and an eternal weight of glory.”*

So, according to their own scripture, accepted to this day, anyone who has not been sealed (married) to their spouse in an LDS temple, will, in the

after-life, become a ministering servant to those who did! And it describes those who are married in the LDS temple as *“those who are worthy of a far more, and an exceeding, and an eternal weight of glory!”*

Then listen to the next verse which Joseph says came from God:

“For these angels did NOT abide my law (this is talking about everyone who is LDS that has not been married to their spouse in the LDS temple); therefore, they cannot be enlarged (that means have babies forever and govern worlds of their own), but remain separately and singly (that means unmarried)ation, in their saved condition, to all eternity; and from henceforth are not gods, but are angels of God forever and ever.”

This is saying SO much, my friends. Listen.

First it is saying that there is a huge difference in LDS doctrine between being saved and exaltation (which is becoming a god).

Next, it tells us what is required to become a god: Being married or sealed to a spouse in an LDS temple.

If a Latter-day Saint IS NOT married in an LDS temple, they will die without a spouse, and will become servant angels for eternity because they failed where

<p>others succeeded, and gained a “weightier glory.”</p> <p>Sound Christian? They say they are Christian! Does this sound Christian to you?</p> <p>And what is required to enter their temple in order to receive these marital ordinances so as to become an enlarged God?</p> <p>Obedience to an assortment of qualifyiers including confessing allegiance only to Mormonism, Joseph Smith, modern prophets, paying 10% of your income to the church, abstaining from coffee, tea, tobacco and alcohol, having no more than one piercing in your ears, and a host of other external submissions.</p> <p>Did Jesus say ANYTHING like this was required for people to become GODS?</p> <p>What does the Bible say is required to receive eternal life?</p> <p>Believe that Jesus is God and you will be saved.</p> <p>The “revelation” goes on to list all the glories that await people who are married in an LDS temple, and then states in verse 20 and 21, that after all these glories have been bestowed upon the faithful LDS:</p> <p><i>“Then shall they be gods, because they have no end, therefore they shall be from everlasting to everlasting,</i></p>	
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because they continue; then shall they be above all, because all things shall be subject unto them. Then shall they be gods, because they have all power, and the angels are subject unto them. Verily, verily, I say unto you, except ye abide my law, ye cannot attain to this glory."

Where God says through Isaiah:

(Isa 43:10) Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

Joseph says:

"You shall be gods. And you will get there ONLY through marriage in an LDS temple."

A-MAZING!

Amazing that in the august presence of God's Holy Word and Jesus' ultimate and final offering, and God's superlative descriptions of Himself, that there are people on their earth who actually believe they can become gods – through their own efforts.

Father, open their eyes.

(BEAT)

The revelation continues on where Joseph now tells the reader that IF they enter into this LDS temple covenant of

temple marriage they will get their promised exaltation no matter what sins they might commit thereafter – including “all manner of blasphemies” – unless they commit murder wherein they shed innocent blood. Such a sin is what Joseph Smith has God call the “BlaspHEME against the holy Ghost,” saying in verse 27:

“The blasphemy against the Holy Ghost, which shall not be forgiven in the world nor out of the world, is in that ye commit murder wherein ye shed innocent blood, and assent unto my death, after you have received the New and Everlasting Covenant.”

To restate, Joseph Smith has the Lord say in Doctrine and Covenants 132 that if you are married in an LDS temple, by one with the proper authority, and sealed by the Holy Spirit, you will be exalted as a God even if you commit any sin EXCEPT blasphemy against the Holy Ghost, which is defined as murdering innocent blood.

Mormonitious Twistianity at it’s best.

Then in verse 29, Joseph shifts and seques into the topic of plural marriage by beginning to talk about Abraham.

In verse 29 he says Abraham received his exaltation and sits upon his throne because he obeyed all these things.

And in verses 30 and 31, Joseph Smith

<p>has the Lord tell him that he is of the fruit of Abraham's loins, and the promises made to Abraham were made to him as well.</p> <p>Then he drops the bomb – on Emma, and on the LDS world forever.</p> <p>Still speaking of Joseph Smith and his relation to Abraham, God says in verse 32:</p> <p>"Go ye, therefore, and do the works of Abraham; enter ye into my law and you shall be saved!"</p> <p>This is gigantic bombshell, my friends, because what Joseph is having God say to him is: <i>"Go take on more wives and you will be saved because you are being obedient to this eternal law being revealed here."</i></p> <p>How can I say this?</p> <p>Keep reading verses 33-39</p> <p>Now I am going to read straight from Section 132.</p> <p>What Joseph is doing is he is building a case for his justification for having more than one wife.</p> <p>Let me read verses 33-39, and stop and explain the idiocy as we go.</p> <p>(READ HERE)</p> <p>[Conclude]</p>	
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<p>Joseph Smith had the ability to two a number of things very well.</p> <p>The first was he had an ability to bring heaven down to earth and put earth in heaven.</p> <p>In his world, all of it was interchangeable. Jesus painted a very different picture.</p> <p>Joseph Smith also had an uncanny ability to justify his wants and wishes in the name of God.</p> <p>Thus sayeth the LORD.</p> <p>Whether it had to do with business, getting himself out of a fix, or obtaining more women, he had no problem saying God was the author of it all.</p> <p>And like Poe, Sun Myoung Moon, David Koresh, and Jim Jones – people believed him – even today.</p>	
<p>Let's go to the phones: (801) 973-8820 (801) 973-TV20</p> <p>First time callers only. LDS callers preferably. Turn down your tv sets.</p> <p>While the operators are clearing calls, lets take a minute and tell you about our partners program, which helps keep us around.</p>	

EMAILS	
CONCLUSION	

<p>LIVE! From the "Mecca of Mormonism" - Salt Lake City, Utah - THIS . . . is Heart of the Matter . . .</p> <p>"Where Mormonism Meets Biblical Christianity Face to Face."</p>	<p>Show 38 Doctrine and Covenants 132 - part III Sept 22nd 2009</p> <p>And I'm Shawn McCraney your host.</p>
<p>If you have family or friends who cannot get Heart through television give them a call and tell them to go to WWW.HOTM.TV And they can watch through streaming video from anywhere in the world!</p>	
<p><i>"I was a Born-Again Mormon"</i></p> <p>We are in back order getting hard copies back out in the stores but we are offering the book in downloadable PDF form.</p> <p>Go to www.hotm.tv and you can have the book in your hands within minutes.</p>	
<p>Are you taking the time to learn the Word of God?</p> <p>Alathea Ministries offers a no-obligation, never denominational Bible study called Calvary Campus.</p> <p>Christian Assemblies Meeting to Prayerfully Understand Scripture.</p> <p>Join us any and every Sunday at the U of U and Utah State and then Wednesday evenings in Odgen.</p> <p>Go to www.calvarycampus.com for more information like meeting times and directions.</p>	

<p>On Saturday, October 3rd, 11 am, we are having a volunteer meeting for our up and coming new television program, The Grey Generation.</p> <p>If you have the time and inclination, we need your help.</p> <p>Go to www.thegreygeneration.tv for more information.</p>	<p>(GRAPHIC)</p>
<p>How about a Moment in Mormon History?</p>	
<p>Last week we had a caller ask about the LDS use of the biblical passage where Jesus tells Peter that whatever he binds on earth would be bound in heaven and how the LDS use this to justify eternal marriage.</p> <p>I explained a few reasons why their use of the passage is foolish because of other things Jesus said about marriage, but that I would discuss it further this week.</p> <p>First of all, what was Jesus doing when He chose the twelve?</p> <p>He was establishing the order of the Apostolic Church, which would continue, from the directives of His first hand witnesses, to set the order of</p>	

<p>His church once He was gone.</p> <p>Jesus trained them in the Gospel to take His message throughout the world.</p> <p>By these original twelve, first hand witnesses, the Gospel miraculously grew. And as it grew, it needed direction.</p> <p>The decisions made for the administration of His church were left in the hands of these chosen men.</p> <p>Now, the passage in question has some preface verses and follow-up verses which give it added meaning.</p> <p>We call this context in Christianity. In Mormonism, they call it irrelevance.</p> <p>What is the context of the singular passage in Matthew 18:18 where Jesus says, <i>"Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven?"</i></p> <p>Go back to verse 15 of Matthew 18.</p> <p>Here Jesus says,</p> <p><i>"Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.</i></p>	<p>Here Jesus is teaching the apostles how to handle interpersonal issues. Go to the person, he says, and tell him his fault.</p> <p>Got it? Then in verse 16, He continues</p>
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16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee *one or two more*, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose

So now, he is talking about someone who will not receive the one on one dialogue. And He says, take one or two more with you, and in the mouth of two or three witnesses EVERY word will be ESTABLISHED.

Now the Lord is moving them to understand the governance of His early Church.

He goes on –

So now the Lord teaches the Apostles how to handle a tough case, an obstinate soul who first neglects the face to face confrontation, then two or three witnesses, and then the Church itself!

And what is the result?

Jesus says, “let him be unto you as a heathen,” meaning, make the decision that the body of believers will have no fellowship with Him any longer!”

And now He tells them that their decisions will be binding.

<p>on earth shall be loosed in heaven.</p> <p>19 <u>Again</u> I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.</p> <p>20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.</p>	<p>Now listen to the follow-up verses, which add further contextual support for the reason anything was previously said!</p> <p>He says, Again, here, relative to church decisions and governance, specifically in dealing with people and their attitudes, that He leaves the power in their hands to collectively speak on His behalf.</p> <p>And He finishes by stating another operational rule for them.</p> <p>This passage is completely misused and misapplied to the errant teaching of binding marriages on earth.</p> <p>We know this NOT only because of the context here, but also because of what Jesus said about marriage in other places! Listen:</p> <p>In Luke, Jesus lays out the place and setting in marriage, saying:</p> <p><i>Lu 20:34 And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: but they which shall be accounted</i></p>
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	<p><i>worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage.</i></p> <p>In Matthew, He plainly states the condition of saved people after this life</p> <p><i>Mt 22:30 For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.</i></p> <p>Who are you going to believe, Jesus or Joseph?</p>
<p>Over the years many people share a sort-of rhetorical syllogism with me. It goes something like this:</p> <p><i>"If Mormons are Christian, are Christians Mormon?"</i></p> <p>I don't usually use or refer to this syllogism because it can be turned on you if you aren't careful.</p> <p>Someone could state in return:</p> <p><i>"If Baptists are Christian, are Christians baptists?"</i></p> <p>And of course, the answer would reasonably be no.</p> <p>There IS, however, a place for this syllogism.</p> <p>And the answer is in core doctrines.</p> <p>What is it that makes a Christian?</p> <p>Perhaps one of the best ways to define</p>	

general Christianity would be to say that Christians share in the essentials of the Gospel.

And what are the essentials? Whatever is necessary for salvation.

And what things are these?

- 1). Believing that Jesus is the I AM – God incarnate.
- 2). Believing He was conceived of a virgin by the Holy Spirit.
- 2). Believing that He and He alone is the author and finisher of our faith.
- 3). Believing the Bible as inerrant.
- 4). Believing He was resurrected from the dead on the third day.
- 5). Believing that when a person believes in their heart, and confesses with their mouth that He is the Christ they shall be saved.

These essentials are shared by Christians world-wide.

Altering, adding, or rejecting these essentials is akin to deconstructing a bicycle down to a single spoke of a wheel and calling it a bike.

No wheels, no handle bars, no frame, no seat, no chain, or peddles, but only a single spoke, and only a fool would consider it a bike.

So it is with Christianity, without Jesus being God – without a beginning or end, without a virgin birth, without salvation by grace and grace alone, without receiving the Bible as inerrant – only a fool would accept such a stripped down version as Christian.

<p>The LDS go a step further. They not only strip away many of the plain and precious truths of Christianity, they attach their own items.</p> <p>Imagine a child asking for a bicycle for her birthday, and the parents take the spoke of a bike wheel, stick it in a beehive, wrap it in a prairie dress, tape a rock to the side and then hand it to her, saying, Happy Birthday, Sweetie! Here's your bicycle.</p> <p>Mormonism - not Christian.</p>	
<p>We want to take a minute and recommend two outstanding resources to ANYONE wanting to research the claims of the LDS religion.</p> <p>The first is www.utlm.org</p> <p>Utah Lighthouse Ministry. The oldest, the most reliable, the standard for LDS history and doctrine.</p> <p>UTLM will show you point blank, using primary source materials, how Mormon leaders have presently and over the years turned, changed, lied, and contrived what they call "the only true Church of Jesus Christ on earth."</p> <p>Confirm your suspicions - go to UTLM.org</p> <p>Another resource we highly recommend is a book by Bill McKeever titled:</p> <hr/> <p>The information is there. God is</p>	

calling. He wants you to be free from the fetters of religion and to have the liberty that comes through a direct relationship with Him through Jesus alone.	
<p>Speaking of fetters, of MANipulation, of deception, Jesus was right on the mark when He called down “Woes” upon the scribes and Pharisees of His day.</p> <p>My personal favorite Christian band – Adam’s Road was inspired to put these Woes to music – which they performed here on Heart a few weeks ago.</p> <p>Another Christian brother, Aaron Shaffaloff took their music and put it in an appropriately applied video form.</p> <p>Before we go to our message tonight, let’s take a look.</p> <p>Thanks, Adam’s Road and Aaron, for your respective work for Him and our LDS brothers and sisters.</p> <p>(RUN VIDEO)</p>	
And with that, let’s have a prayer.	PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER
<p>We left off last week reading through Joseph Smith’s “revelation” on plural marriage, otherwise known as Doctrine and Covenants 132.</p> <p>If you want to get the most out of this series, watch the past three programs.</p> <p>Tonight, we pick up at verse 40 of the LDS Doctrine and Covenants 132.</p> <p>Joseph Smith just finished having God</p>	

talk about the polygamous practices of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and David.

Instead of telling it as it was – that Sarah gave Abraham her handmaid Hagar to have a child with because she took making God’s promises happen instead of waiting on Him to fulfill them – Joseph has God say:

“And why did she do it? Because this was the Law; and from Hagar sprang many people. This, therefore, was fulfilling, among other things, the promises.”

Then in verses 40, God tells Joseph that he is appointed to restore all things to the earth.

Being that polygamy is not only justified but claimed by God to be his Law in the lives of Abraham and David to name a few, Joseph is building a case to restore this true practice back to the earth.

Notice there is no commentary in these passages about there being too many women. Notice there is no commentary here about the Lord using polygamy to build up a righteous seed through the LDS. Notice there is no b.s. about only a few of the most select and holy men ought to practice it, like Gorden Hickley tried to pass off on Larry King.

Joseph made it an eternal law, he said God called him to restore it to earth, he said that in order to reach the highest degree of the celestial world, it must be kept.

In verses 41 through 44 Joseph has God delineate what is adultery and what is not.

In these descriptions, God tells Joseph that if a man commits adultery and his wife has not, then Joseph has the power to “take her and give her unto a man that has not committed adultery, but has been faithful; for he shall rule over many.”

In light of this power Joseph claims he has been given, he goes on and has God speak to Him mixing and mingling a Bible verse in with Joseph’s new added twists.

Listen to verse 46:

“And verily, verily, I say unto you, that whatsoever you seal on earth, and whatsoever you bind on earth, in my name and my word, saith the Lord, it shall be ETERNALLY bound in the heavens; and whatsoever sins you remit on earth shall be remitted eternally in the heavens; and whatsoever sins you retain on earth shall be retained in heaven.”

This statement, which Joseph took from Jesus when he spoke to his disciples on how to manage the early church, Joseph now applied to his God given power and ability to seal anything on earth eternally.

He’s inching slowly toward revealing polygamy to Emma here.

He is building a masterful, but convoluted and twisted case.

Just listen to verse 48 as he slips in a key phrase to this whole “revelation” and his power and ability to seal matters on earth.

Ready?

“And again,” he has the Lord say, “verily I say unto you, my servant Joseph, that whatsoever you give on earth (LISTEN) *and to whomsoever you give **any one** on earth . . .*”

In this line, Joseph has God say that he has the ability to take and give human beings to people and have them bound eternally in heaven.

You may think this is just a guy talking or you may believe this is God talking, but let me tell you how this phrase played out:

It played out where the early church leaders would literally “take” people, women, primarily, and have them sealed to themselves.

Women who were in their teens.
Orphans.

Women who were happily married to other men.

Women who were sisters.

Women who were mothers and daughters.

This revelation opened the door for Joseph and Brigham and others to take and exchange people as if they were

baseball cards.

All in God's name!

Now let me explain something here.

I understand adultery. I understand lust and messing up.

I am not condemning anyone for failures in their flesh nor am I holding Joseph up to moral scrutiny. He has, as a man, to answer to His God.

BUT the problem, the heresy, the abomination, was Joseph used God's name to justify all of this.

This is what we are pointing out to people – that they are embracing a man who did not hesitate to use God's name to justify ANYTHING.

In order to really put an exclamation point on this whole revelation so far, and to remind Emma of exactly who he was, Joseph then has audacity to have God say in the next verse, verse 49: (Listen to this)

"For I am the Lord thy God, and will be with thee (Joseph) even unto the end of the world, and through all eternity; for verily I seal upon you your exaltation and prepare a throne for you in the kingdom of my father, with Abraham your father."

And in the next verse he has God forgive him for all of his sins.

So the stage is set.

He has talked about eternal laws and made it clear that whoever reads this revelation must live it.

Then he lays out a case for marriage being either of their earth or eternal, and if eternal, the gateway to becoming a GOD.

Then he presents Abraham and others as participants in polygamy.

Then he states that he has the power to seal and bind people – and to give them to whomever he would.

And finally, before he gets into polygamy, he reminds everyone, but especially Emma, that he is promised by God to be exalted and that all his sins are forgiven.

This takes us to verse 52, where Joseph has God speak to Emma.

“And let my handmaiden, Emma Smith, *receive all those* that have been given unto my servant Joseph, *AND who are virtuous and pure before me*, (meaning, more wives) (then God says something really weird here, He says) “and those (women who Joseph seeks to have as extra wives) who are not pure, and have said they are pure, shall be destroyed, saith the Lord.”

What the? I mean, are there any lengths this guys wouldn't go to fulfill his fantasies?

Joseph goes on to have God speak to Emma about supporting him, and then

in verse 54 he has God threaten his wife, saying:

"But if she will not obey this commandment she shall be destroyed."

Throughout much of his life, Joseph promounces a lot of these warnings – telling people that if they didn't do this or didn't do that God would destroy them.

In verse 56, *"God reminds Emma again that she is to forgive Joseph his trespasses"* (probably referring to hiding secret wives from her knowledge) and in verse 57 he has God tell her that *"he is with Joseph just as he was with Abraham."*

In verse 59, Joseph has God return to the topic of men doing things in His name and by His power, and that if a person does something *"according to these laws, he will not be committing sin and God will justify him."*

It is interesting that Joseph has God here sort of justifying some acts of men, saying they are not committing sin if they do these actions according to his laws.

What actions is God talking about that might appear to be sin but are not?

Verse 61-62 tells us as Joseph has God say:

"If any man espouse a virgin, and

(GRAPHIC)

desire to espouse another, and the first give her consent, and if he espouses the second, and they are virgins, and have vowed to no other man, then he is justified; he cannot commit adultery for they are given him, for he cannot commit adultery with that that belongeth unto him and to no one else. And if he have ten virgins given unto him by this law, he cannot commit adultery, for they belong to him, and are given unto him, therefore he is justified."

This doctrine is still part of LDS scripture. It is believed, it is practiced spiritually in the church today, and LDS men wait for it to be reintroduced for practice – if not here, then certainly in heaven – for it is an eternal law which, according to Mormon doctrines, can NEVER be done away with.

Let me conclude by just pointing out a few key issues with verse 61 and 62 of Doctrine and Covenants 132:

*"If any man espouse a virgin,
and desire to espouse another,
and the first give her consent,
and if he espouses the second, and
they are virgins, and have vowed to
no other man, then he is justified; he
cannot commit adultery for they are*

(BRING GRAPHIC BACK UP)

<p><i>given him, for he cannot commit adultery with <u>that that</u> belongeth unto him and to no one else.</i></p> <p><i>And if he have <u>ten virgins</u></i></p> <p><i>given unto him by this law, he cannot commit adultery, for they belong to him, and are given unto him, therefore he is justified."</i></p> <p>Section 132 ends with Joseph warning all women whose husbands have read and received this revelation that if they reject it, they will be destroyed, becoming a transgressor.</p> <p>I would suggest just the opposite.</p> <p>As we said years ago:</p> <p>Have Nothing to do with Section 132.</p> <p>Let's open up the phones:</p> <p>(801) 973-8820 (801) 973-TV20</p> <p>First time callers appreciated. LDS callers desired.</p> <p>While we wait for the operators to clear the calls, let's have a message about our Partners Program.</p>	<p>(PARTNERS SPOT)</p>
<p>EMAILS</p>	

<p>LIVE! From the “Mecca of Mormonism” - Salt Lake City, Utah -</p> <p>THIS . . . is Heart of the Matter . . .</p> <p>“Where Mormonism Meets Biblical Christianity Face to Face.”</p>	<p><i>Show 39 – Toward Statehood September 29th 2009</i></p> <p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host, <i>AND . . . the best</i> home teacher you’ve ever had.</p>
<p>If you have family or friends who cannot get Heart through television give them a call and tell them to go to WWW.HOTM.TV</p> <p>And they can watch through streaming video from anywhere in the world!</p> <p>We have also archived hundreds of hour long programs for your enjoyment.</p> <p>HOTM.TV</p>	
<p><i>“I was a Born-Again Mormon”</i></p> <p>We recently to make the manuscript available online through a downloadable PDF.</p> <p>Go to www.hotm.tv and you can have the book in your hands within minutes for any size donation – or for free for that matter.</p>	
<p>Are you involved with anything meaningful, creative, and exciting that is aimed at doing good in Jesus name?</p>	

<p>This Saturday we are holding the first volunteers meeting for our up and coming television program, "The Grey Generation."</p> <p>Become part of our ground floor staff in this unique outreach to America's teens.</p> <p>We need telephone operators, runners, graphics people, camera people, studio people and just general help.</p> <p>The show will air weekly and late – beginning Saturday night, October 31st at 10:30 pm.</p> <p>All committed volunteers – teens or adults - are welcome.</p> <p>Take a minute and watch the shows opener to give you a feel of where we're headed with this program:</p> <p>(SHOW GG OPENER)</p> <p>Volunteer meeting this Saturday 11 am, here at the studio 314 South Redwood Road.</p> <p>Go to www.hotm.tv for more information.</p>	
<p>Several weeks ago we had a young woman call and tell us she was about to become the second plural wife of an FLDS man.</p> <p>I recently learned through a phone conversation that she did NOT go through with these plans, in part, from calling the program, but is stepping</p>	

<p>back to examine the whole matter.</p> <p>Pray for her.</p>	
<p>Last week we finished our examination of Joseph Smith's so called revelation on plural marriage known as Doctrine and Covenants 132.</p> <p>In that revelation, Joseph has God state that Sarah was justified in having Abraham take Hagar her handmaiden so that He could produce children and fulfill God's promise – God's promise – that Abraham's seed would be proliferated.</p> <p>The biblical lesson, friends, is that Abraham and Sarah <i>ought</i> to have waited on God to make good on his promise to them but instead took matters into their own hands.</p> <p>This is a great picture for all the decisions we make as Christians – do we wait on the Lord or do we take matters into our own hands?</p> <p>Mormonism, because of their theological model relative to the fall, pre-existence, and salvation by grace and works tacitly says otherwise, as evidenced by Joseph actually <i>justifying</i> the actions of Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar.</p> <p>Using this very event of Abraham and Hagar as an allegory, Paul compares Abrahams union with Hagar as an act of the flesh representative of Law but the production of Isaac – which was what God promised - as a work of the Spirit which is founded in liberty.</p>	

Furthermore, he goes on in Galatians 4 and compares the literal birth and existence of Ishmael as representing flesh which wars against the literal birth and existence of Isaac, who represents spirit, saying

29 But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now.

By using this specific story out of scripture, Paul is saying several important things – all of which fly in the face of LDS teachings, beliefs, and doctrine:

First, he makes the point that Abraham's polygamous choice did not originate from God but from the flesh of Man.

Second, he points out that such decisions end up afflicting men and women, not helping them, just as Ishmael and his progeny ended up afflicting Isaac and his progeny to this day!

Third, Paul tells us, through scripture and citing the allegory, what to do when we have created problems for ourselves through our flesh:

30" Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman."

31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the

<p><i>free.</i></p> <p>Think on this concept a while.</p>	
<p>You know, I want to talk to you a minute about the Word of God.</p> <p>Lately I have really been impressed with the importance, power, and reliability of God's Word.</p> <p>It is trustworthy. You can rest entirely on its contents. It is living, and true, and good, and powerful.</p> <p>It is from God's mouth to our ears and God takes it very seriously.</p> <p>In Psalms 138:2 God says He has:</p> <p><i>"magnified His word above all of His name."</i></p> <p>So powerful, so reliable, so trustworthy is God's Word that when Jesus was approached by Satan in the wilderness, he cited IT three times, saying:</p> <p>"It is written . . ." and then He quoted scripture that was just as old to Him in His life as the New Testament is to this generation!</p> <p>It is written.</p> <p>It is reliable.</p> <p>It is from the mouth of God.</p> <p>Every single man-made religious</p>	

leader that has ever sought to introduce his or her own ideas to the world has claimed that the written Word either –

- Cannot be trusted,
- Or they altered it by either removing and adding parts to it.

Where did the Biblical contents originate? Who were the authors?

From those who wrote the inspired – or “God breathed” – words of God.

In the Old testament, these were prophets who were moved to write that which they did not even understand.

And in the New Testament, these were apostles who, *as first hand witnesses of Jesus and His gospel*, were also moved by the Holy Spirit to write.

In Ephesians 2, Paul describes the church as a building made up of believers, and speaking to individual believers, beginning at verse 19, he says:

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

And what does this Household of God look like? Well, let’s first look at the household’s foundation?

Paul says that the believers who actually frame this spiritual building. . .

20 . . . are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

The prophets who foretold (in writing) Jesus and the apostles who witnessed Him and also wrote of Him.

This is the foundation. It was laid by the inspired witnesses of Jesus Old and New.

We are not “prophets or apostles” with a capital P or A, but when we read and cite their words, we stand on the very same authority with which they once spoke and wrote.

The Word is our foundation, with Jesus Christ – also the Word – being the chief cornerstone. Paul goes on now, and speaking of believers, says:

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

Meaning, that as believers, we are framed together upon this foundation of the Word and we individually and collectively grow into a holy temple of the Lord.

22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

And what purpose do we serve as believers that now actually form the new covenant temple? Paul says (verse 22)

	<p>As believers we are living receptacles wherein God dwells.</p> <p>There is the household of God. This is the temple of God today.</p> <p>When someone comes along and says:</p> <p>“I am a prophet,” or “we are apostles” we are built upon a foundation of the Word’s of true prophets and apostles and can compare what new prophets and apostles claim, and what our foundation states as truth.</p> <p>In this way we can be certain who are liars, deceivers, and false.</p> <p>Where Joseph Smith said, as quoted in History of the Church 5:425</p> <p><i>“There are many things in the Bible which do not, as they now stand, accord with the revelations of the Holy Ghost to me.”</i></p> <p>And the late Apostle Neil A Maxwell said, <i>“By faulty transmission, many plain and precious things were taken away or kept back from reaching what later composed our precious Holy Bible”</i></p> <p>Any Christian can firmly stand side by side with Jesus by simply stating</p> <p>“It is written.”</p> <p>(beat)</p> <p>And with that, let’s have a prayer.</p>
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PRAYER	PRAYER	PRAYER	PRAYER	PRAYER	PRAYER
<p>Let me speak as plainly as I can.</p> <p>Please hear me.</p> <p>Mormonism teaches that if a Law is to be considered true and real and of God, it must be eternal, and not temporary in nature.</p> <p>Doctrine and Covenants _____ verifies this.</p> <p>Eternal Laws are so important in Mormonism that even one of their Articles of Faith states:</p> <p><i>"We believe that all mankind may be saved by (listen to this) by obedience to the Laws and Ordinances of the Gospel."</i></p> <p>We just finished an examination of the Doctrine and Covenants section 132 where Joseph Smith has God tell the world that this revelation is eternal and binding and must be kept in order for men to become god's.</p> <p>The doctrine of polygamy was considered a true Law, an eternal principle, and by virtue of this, must be practiced, according to Joseph Smith.</p> <p>Joseph wasn't alone in this teaching. LDS prophets who came after him were dogmatic in this doctrine and practice.</p> <p>Brigham Young? Emphatic that it is an eternal principle and law that must be</p>					

"entered into in order to become Gods."

John Taylor, 3rd president of the LDS church? Emphatic. The law of polygamy must be kept, he insisted, saying that the men and women who oppose it are *"on the high road to apostasy."* (JOD 11:221)

Speaking of polygamy, Taylor also said:

"The United States cannot abolish it. It was handed down from God. No nation on earth can prevent it, nor all the nations of the earth combined. I defy the United States. I will obey God."

Wilford Woodruff, even the 4th president of the Mormon church?

"Do away with polygamy, then we must do away with prophets and Apostles, with revelation and the gifts and graces of the Gospel, and finally give up our religion all together and turn sectarians and do as the world does, then all would be all right. We just can't do that, for God has commanded us to build up His kingdom and to bear our testimony to the nations of the earth, and we are going to do it, life or death. He has told us to do thus, and we shall obey Him in days to come as we have in days past." JOD 13:166)

In 1870 Utah Saints sent a memorial to Congress describing plural marriage as, *"a principle revealed by God, underlying our every hope of eternal salvation and happiness in heaven."*

Ten years later Wilford Woodruff received a revelation that polygamy was *"absolutely essential to godhood."*

Today, we have an altogether different take on the practice.

And the spin can range from comical to down right evil.

Not knowing the command to practice it is remains in their own book of scripture many of today's LDS act as if polygamy was something that "weirdo Mormons" started doing back in the day or that it never had or has a place in the *"true Church."*

What they don't realize is "weirdo Mormons" or the FLDS today - are a better picture of doctrinal Mormonism than the religion they think they embrace.

Other Latter day Saints today speak of the practice as though it was just a "temporary thing," and part of God's church being "restored" to the earth or something only very, very few men were expected to do.

As a means to diffuse the practice in this modern world and condemn those who still practiced it, Twelfth president of the LDS Church, Spencer W Kimball,

diminished the eternal law by saying,

"Remember, the Lord put an end to this PROGRAM many decades ago through a prophet who proclaimed the revelation to the world."

So, "what we've got here is a failure to communicate." 9

We have God tell Joseph it is an eternal law, and many other supposed LDS prophets and apostles standing by it and then we have Spencer W Kimball referring to it as a "program" that has been discontinued.

Why did it end?

How could it end?

Has it even ended?

In spite of the LDS claiming allegiance and undying dedication to "God's eternal law of polygamy," the United States government, beginning around 1866, began a number of attempts to end this twin relic of barbarism.

The Wade Bill was introduced and failed. Then came the Cragin Bill, the Ashley Bill, the Cullom Bill, the Voorhees Bill and the Logan Bill - none of which passed the House and Senate to become law but all which raised the national sentiments against the practice of what I call "lots o women" for one man.

In 1880, US President Rutherford B Hayes articulated the nations attitude toward Utah quite well, saying:

"Utah is virtually under theocratic government of the Mormon Church. The Union of Church and State is complete. The result is the usual one, usurpation and absorption of all temporal authority and power by the church."

He continued:

"Laws must be enacted which will take from the Mormon Church its temporal power . . . as a system of Government it is our duty to deal with it as an enemy of our institutions, and its supporters and leaders as CRIMINALS."

This began what is called the decade of raids, a ten year period where the United States hunted down LDS polygamists.

In 1885 LDS president John Taylor and his two counselors fled the country with two hiding in Utah and one of them, Joseph F. Smith fleeing to Hawaii.

Two years later, politicians passed the power packed Edmonds-Tucker act which allowed wives involved in polygamy to actually testify against their husbands in polygamy trials (which they could not do in monogamous relationships). It also made adultery a felony and hit the Mormon Church where it cannot stand to be hit – in the pocketbook. The Church was dis-incorporated and the seizure of any Church real estate valued at over \$50,000.00 could occur.

Add to all this the fact that 3rd

President John Taylor died while in hiding and suddenly . . . low and behold . . . the Mormons started to publicly deny the practice all together - again.

With Joseph Smith polygamy was a secret practice. With Brigham Young and the Utah Territory, it was open and mandatory.

But when the Government turned up the heat, plural marriage went underground again.

Now there is something that really needs to be understood. By pointing it out, I am going to ruffle some feathers and be even more than ever considered a hateful anti-Mormon individual than I already am.

I can't document it but I must present my observations.

When you are dealing with true believing LDS and/or defenders of the LDS faith, truth is secondary or even tertiary.

And while this is present at times in their business practices (which is why Utah, over the years, is always one of the biggest scam capitals of the nation) this fact is never more true than when you are having a discussion with a Mormon about God, religion, the Bible, or their history.

The reason this is true is due to a few factors.

First and foremost, Mormonism grew from a deceptive seed.

Joseph Smith, the founder, used deceptive practices and methods throughout his life, whether in his treasure seeking escapades, the story of the BOM origins, the feigned book of Abraham translation, the Kinderhook plates, and even in dealing with Emma over his multiple secret wives.

He was a deceiver. And from this seed, sprung the tree called Mormonism.

Secondly, the LDS believe they must protect the church at all costs because it is the Church that means the most to them.

And being an institution of men, it will have faults. Faults need to be white-washed in order for people to embrace something, therefore, Mormons whitewash – cover – the truth of their doctrine, history and practices.

Someone who has a relationship with Jesus and not a religious affiliation is never put in this predicament because He is Truth – and for Him there is NEVER a need to lie.

In an effort to protect their practices from those who wouldn't understand, Mormonism, under the fire of the federal government began to do what they do best – spin.

One way they did this is bifurcate the practice of polygamy and make the practice an expression of the LDS

priesthood but NOT part of the LDS leadership and authority.

It was a game of semantics. How it worked is Church leaders would publicly say that the Church no longer sanctioned polygamous marriages, all the while knowing that the priesthood of the church was the one practicing it.

When one Brother Brown was asked about his views on plural marriage while under oath to become a juror, he said he did not “believe polygamy” to be right. But the US prosecutor knew that Brother Brown was an ardent Latter day Saint and polygamist. So the federal government charged him with perjury or lying under oath.

At the perjury trial of Brother Brown, the faithful Mormon explained that his testimony was not false, because his adherence to polygamy was not a matter of “belief,” because he did not believe it was right, he knew it was right.”

Anyone who has listened to our show, anyone who has ever dialogued with a self-appointed LDS apologist, or listened to the missionary discussions, know this spirit of deception is alive and well in the presentation of Mormonism today.

And with that, let’s open up the phone lines:

(801) 973-8820

(801) 973-TV20

LDS callers, please.

<p>First time callers. Turn thy TV sets down!</p> <p>While we wait . . . operators . . . let's watch our "Partner's Announcement."</p> <p>PARTNERS</p>	
<p>EMAILS</p>	
<p>CONCLUSION</p>	

<p>LIVE! From the “Mecca of Mormonism” - Salt Lake City, Utah -</p> <p>THIS . . . is Heart of the Matter . . .</p> <p>“Where Mormonism Meets Biblical Christianity Face to Face.”</p>	<p>Show 40 Oct Conference 09 Report October 6th 2009</p> <p>And I’m your host, Shawn McCraney</p>
<p>If you have family or friends who cannot get Heart through television give them a call and tell them to go to WWW.HOTM.TV</p> <p>And they can watch through streaming video from anywhere in the world!</p> <p>Segments are also available in mass on YouTube and you can watch a number of our programs through our internet archives at www.hotm.tv</p>	
<p>I was a Born-Again Mormon is available for you to download through a PDF.</p> <p>Go to www.bornagainmormon.com to get it through this avenue.</p> <p>If you don’t have a computer, we are working on getting the hard copy version done.</p>	
<p>In less than four weeks we will be airing our third Alatheia Ministries television production – the Grey Generation, which will air live for the first time on Saturday night, October 31st 2009 at 10:30pm.</p> <p>Tell your family and friends as it is a show aimed at showing the flip side to the cultural depredations heaped upon</p>	

<p>our teens and young adults today.</p> <p>There is no topic too sacred, too touchy, too taboo that we will not address with head-on clarity – and then we will open the phones up to hear from you.</p> <p>Here’s the introduction.</p> <p>Go to www.thegreygeneration.tv for more information.</p>	<p>(SHOW INTRODUCTION TO GG)</p>
<p>Last week we got to talk with a highly emotional _____. I actually think he was weeping when he first called in.</p> <p>His whole premise was</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jesus would NEVER pick on another religion or religious people, and, 2. Mormonism never picks on other religions. <p>After some serious give and take, _____ sort of crumbled into a state of rabid histrionics and I had to end the call.</p> <p>I addressed the statement about Jesus never picking on other religions by asking _____ what Jesus called the leaders of the Pharisees and Sanhedrim.</p> <p>And then I partially responded to his cries about Mormonism <i>never</i> saying anything negative about anyone ever.</p> <p>Then, in the face of my responses, his hysteria escalated.</p> <p>For the record, I want to give you a laundry-list of what Mormonism has</p>	

said and done to or against other religions – from it's onset to this very day.

Ready?

Joseph Smith said that in his first vision, God told him that *"all the professors of religion were corrupt and that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight."*

This statement is foundational to the LDS church, and it was here that Mormonism drew first blood against all of Christianity.

Joseph Smith then wrote in the Book of Mormon (1st Nephi 14:10):

"there are two churches only; the one is the church of the Lamb of God (which Mormonism all say is Mormonism), and the other is the church of the devil; wherefore, whosoever belongeth not to the church of the Lamb of God belongeth to that great church, which is the mother of abominations, and she is the whore of all the earth."

So from the founding prophets mouth and their most sacred book of scripture we can hear the attitude Mormonism has had about any church which is not their own.

From this foundation, the attitude flourished over the years:

Brigham Young said:

"The people called Christians are shrouded in ignorance and read the scriptures with

darkened understanding." (JOD 7:333)

There are many, many, many more quotes like this from LDS leaders over the years.

Bob Millet, professor of Ancient Scripture at Brigham Young University was caught on video saying to a class of LDS students that:

“ “

And I can attest personally that there is a pervasive mockery of all Christians behind closed doors of their meetings.

Move on to the LDS temples.

From back when I was going through ALL THE WAY BACK TO 1844, Satan is portrayed as being the employer of all protestant pastors who teach his gospel.

And any missionary who has ever gone out into the world to knock on doors for two years goes out having first been through the LDS temple to receive this indoctrination.

And what does the LDS missionary force of over 65,000 young men, women and couples share with people the world over every single day for at least a year and a half of their lives?

They teach the same foundational things Joseph said and taught. They teach what the Book of Mormon says. They tell Bible believing people that

their faith is corrupted and that they need to hear the real full truth. They will infer diabolical intentions upon good, down to earth pastors of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, all in an effort to make anyone and everyone Mormons in their wake.

This tacitly makes every conversation a Mormon has an affront, an attack, and an abiding example of religious distain for all faiths that are not their own.

Finally, as the coup de grau of all religious insults, the LDS disregard all other faiths so much they actually take the identities of people who have died and have them baptized into Mormonism once they are dead!

Did you know that?

How much disrespect can a religion have for others religious liberties and beliefs?

So repulsive was this practice that a group of incensed Jews stood up and demand the LDS stop vicariously baptizing their victims of the holocaust.

I think every single Christian ought to demand the same of their ancestors.

From their origins, to their prophets, to their temples, to their missionaries, and their college professors, Mormonism is one living constant attack on Christianity.

Mormons never attack or condemn people of other faith??!! *Their very doctrine and practice exist solely to*

<p>do just that!</p> <p>(beat)</p> <p>And with that, let's have a prayer.</p>	
PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER	
<p>Well, this past weekend was the LDS General Conference.</p> <p>Many things were said. I want to comment on three – two this week, and one next – the first is from one Ann Dibb and the second is by Jefferey Holland, a man the LDS call and “apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ.”</p>	
<p>“Ann Dibb,” who is the second counselor in the Young Women’s General Presidency for the LDS church and also happens to be Thomas Monson’s daughter, spoke.</p> <p>Isn’t it funny that out of thirteen MILLION members the best person for the position of counselor in the General Young Women’s Presidency would be the LDS president’s own daughter?</p> <p>That, according to LDS belief, God himself called her through revelation to fill this high profile position.</p> <p>Hmmmmmm? (nothing like Nepostim).</p> <p>(Shake)</p> <p>Anyway, Sister Ann Dibb told a story</p>	

about some Canadian construction workers who, according to a Salt Lake Tribune article, were “left on the underside of a bridge after choosing not to wear their safety equipment.”

The article said Dibb then compared that situation to contemporary dangers of life, and then she added:

“The challenges and the dangers we live with today including societies tolerance of sin, . . . are just as precarious and real as the threat of falling 125 feet to certain death from a high bridge.” But she said, God has provided “the safety equipment needed to make it through mortality –

Now this is a religion that claims to be Christian.

What would a Christian say God has provided to the world to “make it through mortality?”

Well here’s Sister Dibb’s list:

“personal prayer, the scriptures, living prophets (meaning my Daddy) and the Holy Ghost.”

No Jesus.

No Jesus.

No Jesus.

Living prophets?! Her Dad – he’s mentioned. But no Jesus.

She had an opportunity to list Him here – before millions.

To praise Him. To put Him first.

<p>Didn't happen. Because no matter how much they dance about His name, He is not on their hearts or in their minds.</p>	
<p>But then we get to the mother of all October 2009 LDS General Conference quotes.</p> <p>It is so insipid, so indulgent, so full of inane logic that an entire book could be written to refute it. I'm not kidding.</p> <p>It comes from a man the LDS call an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ – Jeffery Holland.</p> <p>On Monday October 5th, The Salt Lake Tribune reported that speaking of the Book of Mormon, Holland said:</p> <p><i>“For 179 years this book has been examined and attacked, denied and deconstructed, targeted and torn apart like perhaps no other book in modern religious history – perhaps like no other book in any religious history. And it still stands.”</i></p> <p><i>He continued. “If anyone is foolish enough or mislead enough to reject 531 pages of a heretofore unknown text teeming with literary and semitic complexity without honestly attempting to account for the origin of those pages . . . such persons, elect or other otherwise, have been deceived and, if they leave this church, they must do so by crawling over or around or under the BOM to</i></p>	

<p><i>make their exit."</i></p> <p>Before we go to the phones, let me speak to this quote line by line.</p>	
<p><i>Holland said:</i></p> <p><i>"For 179 years this book has been examined and attacked, denied and deconstructed, targeted and torn apart like perhaps no other book in modern religious history – perhaps like no other book in any religious history. And it still stands."</i></p>	<p>Can I add that for two hundred and thirty seven years the story of the Loch Ness Monster has <i>been examined and attacked, denied and deconstructed, targeted and torn apart perhaps like no other</i> Loch-monster story in modern secular history – perhaps like no other lake monster story in any secular history. And that it still stands?</p> <p>(Beat)</p> <p>Let me remind ever single viewer right here and now – <u>it is impossible to prove a negative untrue. Impossible.</u></p> <p>Why?</p> <p>There is no evidence to corroborate its falseness. When you begin with a myth how can you prove it wrong through evidence?</p> <p>How can you prove Santa DOES NOT exist?</p>

	<p>How can you PROVE there is no tooth fairy? PROVE it.</p> <p>Let's just pretend that all the nations of the world throw money into a pot and pay for the entire excavation of the entire state of New York – where trillions of tons of earth are sifted through for some archeological piece that will confirm the BOM history true.</p> <p>Even though they will find NOTHING, people can still say, “but that doesn't mean that something was passed over.”</p> <p>And the myth lives on.</p> <p>Where is Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the River Jordan, Judea, the Dead Sea, Calvary, Golgatha, the Salt Pillars of Sodom?</p> <p>And where is Zarahemla? The temples that were built? Just a stone? Just a coin? Just an onti, the bones of a Curelom?</p> <p>And this comparison is only the tip – the tip – of the giant, unprovable myth called the BOM.</p> <p>In every single criticism against the Bible – which has received far more of a point by point critique of the BOM – it has proven itself real, based in history, based in actual events.</p> <p>Holland's hyperbolic hysterics about the BOM being</p> <p><i>examined and attacked, denied and deconstructed, targeted and torn</i></p>
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<p><i>"If anyone is foolish enough or mislead enough to reject</i></p>	<p><i>apart <u>like perhaps no other book in modern religious history</u> – perhaps like no other book in any religious history" –</i></p> <p>is not only laughable, it is a clear example of an LDS leader attempting to use his subjective Mormon opinion as proof of a world-wide fact.</p> <p>The BOM torn apart like no other book in any religious history!</p> <p>He has got to be joking! Does he have any idea how many billions of people have had access to Bibles over the course of the last thousand years and how many of them have scrutinized it!</p> <p>The ego centrism and fictitious persecution complex of this claim is amazing.</p> <p>But even if it WERE true, the fact would remain – you can't prove a negative false.</p> <p>Then he subtly begins to use some strong language of intimidation, saying:</p> <p><i>If anyone is "foolish enough or mislead enough to reject the BOM. . ."</i></p> <p>What is this self-proclaimed Apostle of Jesus Christ saying?</p> <p>You are either a fool or you are mislead</p>
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<p><i>... teeming with literary and Semitic complexity without honestly attempting to account for the origin of those pages ...</i></p>	<p>if you reject the BOM!</p> <p>All the scholars in history who have read and renounced it, and the people who know their Bible who have read it and see it for what it is, and all the people who once accepted it as kids and then dove in and looked at it objectively and seen it for the fraud it is, they are either fools or are misled . . . while all those who blindly trust in the unsupported, plagueristic, mythical contents of a book that was written by a convicted con-man who looked into a hat to bring it forth are wise and inspired?</p> <p>Then Holland shows his logical infancy by referring to the book as "<i>531 pages of a heretofore unknown text . . .</i>" like the number of pages makes it more easier to believe it is God's Word verses, say, the book of Titus in the Bible.</p> <p>Gosh!</p> <p>Then he continues to say that those who are foolish enough to reject the BOM which is</p> <p>Teeming with literary and Semitic complexity?</p> <p>Without HONESTLY attempting to account for the origin of those pages?</p> <p>Well, Jeff, I would like to honestly, Jeff, honestly account for the origins of</p>
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	<p>those 531 pages right here and now.</p> <p>The Book of Mormon does, in fact, teach and emphasize many 19th century <u>religious themes</u> popular among Christian sects at the time.</p> <p>These themes include:</p> <p>need for spiritual rebirth the trinity (and a few other concepts on the ontology of one God) the incarnation of God as Jesus missionary zeal revivalistic worship themes (clapping hands in services, etc.) divine healings baptism of the Holy Spirit Jesus Christ crucified traditional virgin Mary theology the Law of Moses</p> <p>The Book of Mormon also teaches/expounds upon a variety of common 19th century <u>cultural themes</u> that were popular among many Christian Restorationist at that time.</p> <p>Religious Restorationists were men and women who believed that the primitive church of Jesus needed to be re-established on earth.</p> <p>Joseph Smith's family were definitely restorationists.</p> <p><u><i>Popular restorationist platforms found in the Mormonism include:</i></u></p>
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	<p>A rejection of a paid clergy, titles, and denominationalism.</p> <p>A rejection of Calvinistic Theology.</p> <p>A Church using only the name of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>A belief that God's kingdom was to be established in America (a process known as "building Zion").</p> <p>The rejection of all Christian creeds.</p> <p>A belief in an apostasy and a need for a reformation.</p> <p>A faith AND works doctrine.</p> <p>A focus on sequential acts that lead to salvation.</p> <p>A frontier based "spirit of self-reliance."</p> <p>A restitution of tithing.</p> <p>A refocus on Sabbath-day activities.</p> <p>A need for the Bible to be retranslated.</p> <p>The repulsion of secret societies and combinations.</p> <p>An agrarian attitude (meaning people should work with ones own hands).</p> <p>All of these themes are woven into the story fabric that makes up much of the context of Book of Mormon.</p>
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	<p>Much of the Book of Mormon came from borrowed themes found in a variety of sources available to Joseph Smith and his family at that time. These sources include:</p> <p>The Apocrypha (see particularly the Book of Maccabees)</p> <p><u>James Adair's History of the American Indians</u></p> <p>Josephus' <u>War of the Jews</u></p> <p><u>Ethan Smith's View of the Hebrews</u></p> <p>An article from the October 22 1823 Wayne Sentinel</p> <p><u>Solomon Spauldings, Manuscript Found</u></p> <p>The preface to the <u>King James Bible</u> printed in 1769</p> <p>and <u>The Golden Pot by Eta Hoffman</u></p> <p><i>Then, this book "teeming with literary and Semetic complexity," as Holland put it, shows it is also teeming with several hundreds of direct plagiarized quotes and laughable anachronistic evidences.</i></p>
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My respected friend and scholar Michael Marquardt examined the Book of Mormon for its anachronistic problems.

Of the hundreds he found, we've put one simple one the screen for you to see.

being grieved because of the
hardness of their hearts

(1 Nephi 2:18; 7:8)

being grieved for the hardness
of their hearts

(Mark 3:5)

Mark 3:5 being grieved <sullupeq> for <epi> the hardness <porosis> of their <autos> hearts <kardia>

Mr 3:5 sullupoumeno epi pwrwsei kardia autwn

without transliteration, the Greek actually reads “grieved for porosis hearts of their”

EXPLAIN THIS!

|

(EXAMPLE)

To clarify, it would be like me saying I found a 600 year old ancient book from Jerusalem in my backyard and translated it.

But when you read through it, you come across phrases and words that belong to a completely different era, words like “microwave popcorn,” “Boeing 747,” and “McDonald’s Happy meal.”

What would you say about the ancient book I discovered in my back yard?

Immediately, you would know my so called discovery is in the least constructed of borrowed material.

But even in light of these facts – FACTS – Latter-day Saints insist on maintaining the idea that the Book of Mormon is an ancient document.

<i>. . . such persons, elect or other otherwise, have been deceived and, if they leave this church, they must do so by crawling over or around or under the BOM to make their exit.”</i>	Holland finishes his statement by saying that those people who reject the BOM, or . . . Meaning, if anyone leaves Mormonism, they will, as fools or deceived individuals, have to circumvent a
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	<p>concrete, immoveable, non-contestable book called the BOM.</p> <p>I would suggest that Holland is a deceiver, possibly well-meaning, who is using threatening rhetoric to support a negative proposition that, like Santa Claus, can never be proven wholly illegitimate.</p>
<p>As the operators are clearing your calls</p> <p>(801) 973-8820 (801) 973-TV20</p> <p>Let's take a minute and remind you of our Partner's Program.</p>	<p>PARTNERS SPOT</p>
EMAILS	
<p>CONCLUSION</p> <p>Join us next week where will examine the death of the practice of LDS plural marriage and take a look at where LDS allegiances lie – as exemplified by the their living Prophet's "Birthday request."</p>	<p>See you then, here on "Heart of the Matter."</p>

<p>LIVE! From the “Mecca of Mormonism . . .”</p> <p>- Salt Lake City, Utah -</p> <p>This is “Heart of the Matter” . . .</p> <p>“Where Mormonism Meets Biblical Christianity Face to Face.”</p>	<p>Show 41 Atheism Part I October 13th 2009</p> <p>And I’m your host, Shawn McCraney, who, I might also add just may be the greatest home teacher you have ever had? Huh? Huh?</p> <p>“Every Tuesday night right there in your home?” 9</p>
<p>If you have family/friends who cannot watch Heart on cable, direct tv or dish, have them go to . . .</p> <p>www.hotm.tv and click on streaming video and watch the program LIVE from anywhere in the world.</p> <p>We thank and Praise God Almighty for making all this possible.</p>	
<p>There are thousands – if not millions – of people out there whose names are on the records of the LDS church that shouldn’t be.</p> <p>For many of them, having their names on the records serves to tie them to Mormonism and therefore makes genuine Christian progress difficult.</p> <p>In an effort to help people find freedom in Jesus, we started a campaign last year to help people get their names off the records of the Mormon church.</p> <p>We called it “Project Abandon Ship”</p>	

and many people – being prompted by this campaign – have leapt off the Mormon Titanic and fallen safely into the lifeboat called a “true and living relationship with Jesus.”

We invite you to do the same.

How?

On the screen are three websites that will give you instructions on how to proceed.

(GRAPHIC)

www.bornagainmormon.com

www.utlm.org

www.mormonnomore.org

Now, some of you feel it won't make any difference to get your names removed from the LDS records.

Naturally, it's a matter of personal choice.

But there are a number of very good reasons why you might make the jump.

First of all, you send a message loud and clear to the LDS leadership that you want NOTHING to do with their Christian charade.

Maybe they will start making real changes to doctrine and practice instead of just public relation moves.

Second, you'll send a message to family and friend's – if you choose to tell them about it - which might give them the courage to follow your lead.

We see entire families and extended

<p>families abandon ship because one of their members had the courage to jump first.</p> <p>Third, many people believe there are spiritual blessings that come from taking the jump.</p> <p>We hear from quite a few people who have, “Abandoned Ship,” they all seem to share some very common sentiments among each other, like –</p> <p>“I felt such a weight off my back.” “It was such a relief.” “I felt free – out of bondage – happy.” “It truly made a difference in my life.” “I finally felt like I took action in stead of having them act on me.”</p> <p>And guess what?</p> <p>Not one of them imploded or fell into a swirling catabasis of doom.</p> <p>They just leaned back and enjoyed the liberty found in a relationship with Jesus.</p> <p>Look, Mormonism is another gospel. It is a counterfeit to biblical Christianity. And while some Mormons may be Christians, Mormonism is not and it never has been.</p> <p>Free yourselves. You have nothing to lose but your chains.</p>	
<p>You know life often presents us with a lot of very painful experiences and we usually can’t do anything about it. But tonight maybe in my life I can.</p>	

<p>Last night, as I stood out on second south and main in Downtown Salt Lake City waiting for a cab, a woman who was wearing a pink feather boa around her neck and stuffed into a dress no bigger than a ten year old boys tank top, approached me all slinky-like and asked me if I was <i>"Interested in a good time?"</i></p> <p>I explained that I was not and she replied by sort of slipping up to me and whispering, "well, I am."</p> <p>Well, I sort of stepped away - away from the stench of gin, cigarettes, and cheap perfume - and when I began to talk to her about sin, she got all insulted and turned to run off.</p> <p>I said, "What's your name?" and she cried, "It's Millie. And I like what I do."</p> <p>Well as she stormed up the street a photograph of herself fell out of a book she was carrying and this is what she looks like.</p> <p>Millie mentioned that she came from a rural area near Ogden and I just want to pass this on: "If you see Millie, tell her Jesus loves her, and she don't have to put on the red light - even if she prefers that lifestyle.</p> <p>(Shutter)</p>	
<p>Hey, October 31st - Halloween Night - 10:30pm, we are launching our new live call-in program called "the grey generation."</p>	

<p>Tell your friends.</p> <p>Here's a glimpse of the shows opener:</p> <p>Go to www.thegreygeneration.tv for more information.</p>	<p>RUN OPENER OF GG</p>
PRAY PRAY PRAY PRAY	
<p>Tonight we are going to talk about one of the unfortunate fruits of Mormonism which is never mentioned in the Ensign or at general conference - atheism.</p> <p>And while atheism can become the end-game for any person from any structured religious walk, it is an especially prevalent after-effect among the disaffected LDS.</p> <p>The reasons for this are fairly obvious.</p> <p>When any religion uses methods of totality to indoctrinate its membership, the natural result (once the member learns that they have been deceived by the organization) is to completely distrust any and all religious authority and in many cases, to even renounce the existence of God all together.</p> <p>Strange as this may sound, I believe that while some people are born atheists, and others slowly corrupt and decay over time to embrace this mindset of misery, there are still those unfortunate souls who, because of the</p>	

religious lies, abuse, and trauma they have endured, come to hate or even renounce the existence of God.

I was one of those people for a period of time in my life.

In light of Mormonism's dogmatic claims to "the whole truth" and to possessing absolute authority relative to God, priesthoods, lifestyle, and the afterworld, atheism can only be expected.

Where else can a person turn when they discover that the institution that they trusted and calls itself "the only True Church of Jesus Christ" is a religious fraud?"

Certainly not to another religion. Usually not to God.

We maintain that this is one of the unspoken truths of "Mormon fruit." And it is a direct product of what we call their "scorched earth policy."

It is either all them or it is nothing.

They say, "believe everything they say and claim or burn the mother ship down!"

(beat)

We want to speak to those who have burned the mother-ship down . . . who have walked from Mormonism AND then from God all together, scorching their faith to a crispy state of inert dust and living for the now in a state of nihilism.

Before I address atheism, I want to say something to those of you who live a scorched spiritual life.

God is calling to you. He has never stopped calling to you. He sent His son especially for you.

I *know* the personal void that is within you. And I also know your wish to believe – and your inability to respond to that wish.

It is like you have been brutally mind-raped for the whole of your life and then you flip on the television only to hear me suggest that you expose yourself to more.

I'm not.

But I am asking you to go to the source itself.

Go to Him.

(beat)

Now, certainly, there is an acquiescence of the will. What would be the point of questioning God if you weren't willing to hear what He has to say?

So you do have to be open to hearing what He has to say to you.

And when you are open and genuinely willing, you CAN – on your own and separate from all men and their influences – discover Him.

<p><i>Don't let the scorched-earth actions of some religious zealots who do not comprehend the meaning of true grace and unconditioned love forever altar your spiritual lives!</i></p> <p><i>Go to Him. Ask Him to reveal Himself. Ask for a new heart.</i></p> <p>HOW CAN YOU GO WRONG WITH THIS CHALLENGE?</p> <p>(beat)</p> <p>You can't.</p>	
<p>So let me speak for a minute with you about your <i>"faith in no God."</i></p> <p>That's a funny way to put it, isn't it? <i>"Your faith in no God."</i></p> <p>But Atheism is a faith, my friends. It is as ardent of a belief as Christianity – maybe even more.</p> <p>And like any faith good or bad, Atheism must be fed to remain alive and thriving.</p> <p>Atheism is fueled by the fodder of skepticism, of doubt, of a dark cynicism bred in the chambers of the will, of intellectualism, and a CONSTANT vigil to renounce rather than embrace, to refuse rather than see, to proudly stand with head unbowed rather than humble bend before His call.</p>	

<p>And call He does.</p> <p>I am going to touch on two aspects of atheism this week, the rest next.</p> <p>I hope you will consider them.</p> <p>Alister McGrath notes in his article, Challenges from Atheism, (pg 25) that</p> <p>One of the first idea atheists maintain is that believing in God does not lead to a “morality that is clearly superior to that offered by secular culture.”</p> <p>He then goes on to point out that no real growth of atheism ever really occurred until the 18th Century, when the French Revolution propelled atheism to center stage.</p> <p>One of the reasons atheism got legs at this time was because the French church was seen as being central to the “establishment,” which those supporting the French revolution were revolting against.</p> <p>No wonder, when churches are more interested in their own growth and status over the needs of the people, they ought to burn.</p> <p>Unfortunately, along with the churches in the French Revolution, faith in God was also take to the stake and torched.</p> <p>And atheism took its real first breath from the atmosphere of a civilized nation.</p> <p>Unfortunately, many people in early modern Europe made a very bad</p>	
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conclusion. It said:

“Religion is an oppressor, Atheism is a liberator.”

Going back to the verified and ancient book of Isaiah, Jesus the Messiah was prophesied of and described in very different terms than that of an oppressor.

The prophet wrote:

(Isa 61:1) “ . . . *the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.*”

What a clarion call this *could* have been for the French Revolutionaries.

When Jesus Himself was alive – which has been historically attested too by a number of non-Christian writers – He Himself said:

“I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)

So, what actually happened when Atheism actually did gain power for the first time historically? And what have been the results when it has been in control in other countries since?

Love? Kindness? Beauty?

Do theistic attitudes and atheistic attitudes play out the same when they each have power over the people?

One of the biggest complaints modern atheists have against Christianity and other theistic religions is that they grew from soil hydrated by blood;

That violence is the result of believing in God.

HA!

Compare and contrast countries and states lead by leaders God-fearing and God less.

Now, I would be a fool to try and deny the fact that many very bad things have occurred at the hands of men and women who were considered God-fearing (whether they really were is still a matter of debate in my mind).

Certainly some theistic rulers have committed their fair share of atrocities over the course of history.

We can't forget the "Spanish Inquisition" or how the Roman Catholic Church behaved toward the French when they were in cahoots with Bourbon Monarchy?

What about that Mountain Meadows Massacre? Duty to God, right? Shed children's blood.

But then, how do atheistic regimes fair when they find themselves in a position to govern countries?

Any better?

In every case, atheist states, if given the opportunity to flourish, end up oppressing the people . . . often, with blood and horror.

But in every case.

Remember Stalin? The Soviet bloc in Eastern Europe after the second world war? The German Democratic Republic? Cuba? Communist China? North Korea?

Here is the point:

The question is NOT “which form of governance is superior – theistic or atheistic – though I would argue that statistically atheism fails miserably by comparison.

The real question is can man and his institutionalized ideologies EVER be trustworthy?

In the hands of mortals, does absolute power corrupt absolutely?

Absolutely.

The point is our world solutions have NEVER been realized in institutionalized ideologies anymore than our spiritual solutions will ever been realized by institutionalized religions.

Men, women, and even children (read Lord of the Flies) are fallen.

The governments of man, the religions

of man, the institutions of Man, fallen –
and all subject, whatever their position
– to being corrupt or becoming corrupt.

But here is the point for all of you tonight:

YOU CANNOT EVER GO WRONG IN
YOUR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP
TO TRUE AND LIVING GOD.

Herein lies the rub for the atheists.

Their social solutions are not one bit superior to the social solutions of theists or deists.

In fact, they are more often than not, far worse.

Consider Him. Just you and Him.

He commands two things:

To have faith in Him and to love others
in His name.

Go to Him.

Next week, we will continue to make an argument against atheistic ideology – a natural fruit of the LDS scorched earth policy – by comparing the theist world view against the atheist.

[illegible]

<p>LIVE!</p> <p>From the “Mecca of Mormonism”</p> <p>- Salt Lake City, Utah -</p> <p>THIS . . . is Heart of the Matter . . .</p> <p>“Where Mormonism Meets Biblical Christianity Face to Face.”</p>	<p>Show 42 Atheism – Part II</p> <p>October 20th 2009</p>
<p>If you have family or friends who cannot get Heart through television give them a call and tell them to go to WWW.HOTM.TV</p> <p>And they can watch through streaming video from anywhere in the world!</p>	
<p>I was a Born-Again Mormon is available for you to download through a PDF.</p> <p>Go to www.bornagainmormon.com to get it through this avenue.</p> <p>If you don’t have a computer, we are working on getting the hard copy version done.</p>	
<p>What are you doing to learn your Bible?</p> <p>What are you doing on Sunday afternoons in the Salt Lake area and Sunday evenings in Logan?</p> <p>Why not join our weekly verse by verse, never-denominational Bible study?</p> <p>We get together with people from all over the place to study the Word and then socialize together.</p> <p>Go to www.calvarycampus.com for more information like directions and</p>	

times.	
<p>In eleven days on October 31st at 10:30 pm we are going to launch our newest television program, The Grey Generation.</p> <p>We hope you will encourage your teens and young adults to tune in as we present an alternative voice what they are getting from the world.</p> <p>Again, here's the opener.</p>	(GRAPHIC FOR GG)
<p>It seems, according to a Fox 13 news story that: (READ article)</p> <p>Now, why do you suppose that that alleged LDS member said:</p> <p>"Just because you are Mormon people don't like you?"</p> <p>Is this true?</p> <p>If not, why do the general LDS population say it is? And if it is true, why?</p> <p>LDS, we really want to hear from you On this one:</p> <p>Why do you think that just because you're Mormon that people don't like you?</p> <p>Call in and tell us. Please. Share with the world what you think it is that drives people to automatically NOT like Mormons.</p>	
<p>According to a Salt Lake Trib article dated October 13th, the newest Catholic Saint, Father Damien, who was</p>	

<p>canonized by Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican two Sundays ago, was posthumously baptized a Mormon, given Mormon temple endowments, and then sealed to his parents on October 22 1983 in the Los Angeles temple.</p> <p>Amazing.</p> <p>Then, and GET THIS, then this celibate for life Catholic Saint was sealed (meaning eternally married) on March of 2000 to a woman named Marie Damien.</p> <p>Once again, to the LDS, what they offer is so appealing they are going to do it in the name of our dead no matter who they were or what they believed while they were living.</p> <p>Maybe . . . just maybe, it's things like this that make some people automatically dislike Mormons, eh?</p>	
<p>In the classic film, "Judgment at Nuremberg," actor Spencer Tracy said:</p> <p><i>"just because something is logical, does not make it right."</i></p> <p>In Isaiah 55:9 it reads:</p> <p><i>"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."</i></p> <p>When men and women are not satisfied with the information God provides us in His Word, when His</p>	

ways are not “logical enough for them, they construct their own doctrines and practices to fill the faithless void – and if they are Joseph Smith, they call them revelations.

God does not tell us what we are going to do for eternity – so Joseph did.

Neither did God delineate what the state of human families in the hereafter are – so Joseph did.

You see Joseph Smith learned to love telling people about things that they could not see – but he could.

In his early life he used to take a rock and go to people’s property and claim to be able to see buried treasures on their property – and for a fee, he would try and get the treasure for the family as their own private treasure revelator and seer.

He was arrested AND convicted of this in a court of law.

So then, with the very same rock, he claims to have translated the Book of Mormon from golden plates.

When he discovered that revealing so-called hidden spiritual truths was much more defensible act, he gave up the money digging and built himself the reputation of being a prophet, seer, and revelator of hidden religious truth?

What happens to the aboriginals who have not heard of the Mormon gospel?

Joseph told us.

And what did man do before he arrived on earth? Joseph knew.

Where did man come from? Joseph contradicted the Bible and gave us a more logical, if not more Hellenistic response.

Where did even God come from?
What does God look like?
How was Jesus conceived?
Where did Satan come from?
What do you do if you meet a spirit?

Joseph explained it all in detail – all the way down on how to shake a spirits hand – just like he explained in detail the buried treasures he saw under the earth in people yards.

What happens to children who die?
Joseph said.

What is the purpose of life?
What will we do in heaven?
Are there men on the moon?
Can a man have more than one wife?
Why do some people have black skin?
Where did the American Indians come from?
Where was the Garden of Eden?

And on and on and on . . . Joseph knew.

Joseph could see.

And people believed Him over the plain simple Word of God.

Because he filled-in the gaps.
He provided certainty.

<p>And in the process killed faith and trust by getting people to KNOW –</p> <p>To KNOW the Book of Mormon is true. To KNOW they existed before. To KNOW the Church is true.</p> <p>Charlatans have ALWAYS claimed to know the hidden secrets to life, of God, and about the world.</p> <p>But God says, trust me and trust my Word - completely.</p>	
<p>Growing up in Huntington Beach I had a couple of friends to whom I have always loved and resonated, even if we didn't hang out with each other all the time.</p> <p>One was a very artistic girl named Holly I've known since I was eleven.</p> <p>Holly is respected artist now, educated, and successful, and I had the blessing of being able to catch up with her the other day over lunch in LA.</p> <p>The two of us had another friend named Steve, who since as far back as I can remember was an aggressive, "go-after-life-with-all-you've-got" kind of surfer who remained this way even as an adult.</p> <p>Holly informed me that a year or so back that she had heard that Steve had suffered a heart attack and had actually died but was brought back to life.</p> <p>She went and visited with him and he told her that he was really terrified by what he experienced.</p>	

<p>That he was surrounded in darkness and demonic faces were all around him.</p> <p>Now, this was something Steve would say just – he was too macho of an individual – but Holly says she could tell that he was truly frightened.</p> <p>Six weeks later Steve suffered another heart attack and died.</p> <p>There is a solution to the demonic darkness that awaits the unsaved.</p> <p>It is the ONLY solution available to us.</p> <p>His name is Yeshua, Joshua, Jesus – who called Himself without shame, The Light of the World.</p> <p>He gave Himself up to overcome death and hell and calls to ALL to receive Him.</p> <p>Some hear, some do not.</p> <p>I hope that Steve, in the short interim of his life, received Yeshua – before he returned to life in the spirit.</p> <p>It literally means the difference between eternal life in light, or eternal darkness.</p> <p>I pray Holly hears His call too.</p> <p>And with that let's have a prayer.</p>	
PRAYER	PRAYER

<p>MESSAGE</p> <p>Last week, we talked about one of the unspoken fruits of Mormonism – atheism.</p> <p>We said that not believing in God is often the result of people buying into the errant LDS teachings that it is the only true church on earth and then discovering it to be a fraud.</p> <p>This often leads to them being so burned that they even come to hate or renounce God’s existence.</p> <p>Additionally, we mentioned two facts for the “Atheist” to consider – because we have a heart for people burned by religion.</p> <p>The first was that Atheism is a faith. It requires an extraordinary amount of belief in no-God.</p> <p>The second fact we discussed was in reference to the Atheists claims that belief in God usual equates to bloodshed and violence. Regarding this, we illustrated that atheistic governments were far more inclined to inhumane governance than theistic.</p> <p>Tonight, I’d like to give those from those who ardently believe in no-God a few more points to consider.</p> <p>The first is the smug atheist argument is that God is merely a crutch for the feeble.</p>	

Nietzsche's superman would never have need for such a creation.

Borrowing from such proud ideologies which were made popular by men like Feuerbach, Karl Marx quipped one of the most famous lines, saying:

"Religion is the opiate of the masses."

In other words, the masses of humanity WANT there to be a God to quell our fears from lightening and thunder, to protect us from the unknown, to comfort us with guilt and shame and to pacify us in the dark face of the inevitable – death.

I would suggest that there is a tremendous amount of truth to what Feuerbach and Nietzsche and Marx had to say.

But by agreeing I also want to ask: "So what? What's wrong with human beings wanting a source of comfort in the face of their sins and failures? What's wrong with giving allegiance to a power and source that is reliable, unshakable, trustworthy, and kind?"

Is an atheist a better human being, a stronger human being, a more loving human being because they embrace the faith of denial over an individual who chooses to make her or himself accountable to God?

I would suggest that where atheists call theists belief in God a crutch that the atheists denial of God is motivated by fear of accountability.

Tell me, what is *more convenient* for a murderer, to deny the existence of God and thereby remove the fear of retribution for his crimes or to embrace the notion of God and to therefore live with the inevitable consequences of his actions.

Bottom-line?

Atheism, and all of its forms, becomes the vehicle by which men and women are able to ignore, renounce, or hide from the consequence of their lives.

The Polish poet Czeslaw Milosz, who won the Nobel Prize in literature in the 1980's, commented on this Atheistic attitude in an essay called, The Discreet Charm of Nihilism.

Milosz, who was silenced under Stalinism and Nazism said:

"Religion, opium for the people! To those suffering pain, humiliation, illness, and serfdom, it promised a reward in the afterlife. And now we are witnessing a transformation. A true opium of the people is a belief in nothingness after death, the huge solace of thinking that for our betrayals, greed, cowardice and murders we are not going to bejudged. The Marxist creed has now been inverted. The true opium of modernity is the belief that there is no God, so that humans are free to do precisely as they please."

To me, a stated faith in no God is about

as ego-centric a statement that could ever be made because cemented to the claim is the idea that the speaker has examined all the evidence!

There is no God? How do you know? Have you examined all the proofs?

Of course not. But to make such a claim it would only reasonably infer they had!

And the argument here cannot be flipped.

All the evidence does not need to be examined for a person to see that God exists anymore than a microscopic examination of every square inch Donald Trump needs to occur to see he exists. A couple of evidences would suffice.

But in order to categorically deny that Donald Trump exists, a person would have to have literally examined the entire universe!

Get it?

This lead us to the final criticism atheists heap upon believers today - that Christianity is a leap into an unfounded chasm of unsubstantiated claims and that science has disproved the evidence for God.

Enter Richard Dawkins, atheist extraordinaire and author of The God Delusion.

Dawkins ignorantly and consistently insists that faith in God is the "process

of non-thought," that believers possess a "blind trust in the absence of evidence."

While Dawkins inflammatory accusations may carry weight against some so-called faith-based religions like Mormonism, where people believe in books and claims that have absolutely no evidentiary basis, he is truly guilty of his own accusation of non-thought when it comes to biblical Christianity.

Great twentieth century Christian thinkers like Wolterstorff, Plantinga, Swineburne, and C.S. Lewis – to name a few – have made robust intellectual cases for faith and have helped true Christians the world over see that God does not expect us to blindly embrace the claims of every piker to step up to a pulpit.

God Himself, in His own Word, tells us to:

The Lord through the prophet Isaiah said:

"Come now, and let us reason together . . ."

Paul told us to *"earnestly contend for the faith"* which was once given to the Saints and called the Berean's in the book of Acts more noble because they *"received the word with READINESS OF MIND and SEARCHED THE SCRIPTURES DAILY to see if what was told them was true or not."*

You find me a true Christian and I will show you a man or woman who reasonably seeks for truth, no matter how hard it is to hear, embrace, or incorporate into their walk of faith BUT you show me a true Atheist and I will show you the most bitter, cynical, closed-minded to truth you will ever meet.

Atheists often equate the theists belief in God with the belief in Santa Claus or the tooth-fairy.

This accusation, too, is weighed in the balance and found wanting because I stopped believing in tooth-fairy by the time I was six and Santa Claus by the time I was seven because I started thinking and reasoning then.

Atheists stop believing in God because they stopped reasoning at some sad point in their lives and gave into the notion that have seen it all.

Hand in hand with the false claim that Christians “don’t have a sound core intelligence to their faith” comes the relentless claim that science has all but decimated the archaic notions of God.

Has science destroyed the structure, form, and variety of the universe, the galaxy, the solar system, or earth?

Has science proven anything, at all, about there not being a divine power behind the construction of DNA, the cell, or a simple rose?

Can science explain the origins of the seasons, billions of stars and planets in

<p>a single galaxy which is one of a trillion other galaxies? Can it tell us how and why the diversity of foods, the beauty of music, the variety of fingerprints?</p> <p>Take a computer and tear it apart then throw it out in the desert. How many years would it take for those components to come together into a functioning whole again?</p> <p>Then look at the complexity of a single human body and explain its origins.</p> <p>How long would it take a thousand monkey's sitting at typewriters to reproduce Shakespear's Macbeth?</p> <p>A thousand years? A trillion years? Ever?</p> <p>Can science ever, EVER answer life's most meaningful and important questions?</p> <p>Why are we here? Where are we going? How come human beings can be selfless, sacrificial, even loving?</p> <p>Science will always and forever support, in one way or another, the existence of God – or it was never true science with-which to begin.</p> <p>In the end it always has and it always will because where science is changing, God is not.</p>	
Let's open up the phone lines:	801 973-TV20 801 973-8820
	Listen, while the operators are clearing

	<p>the lines and screening the calls, allow me to take a minute and talk about our ministry and your support.</p> <p>First of all, let me thank each and all of you for supporting Alatheia Ministries through whatever means the Lord has lead you to act.</p> <p>Many of you pray for us constantly – you pray for me – and I can’t tell you how much these prayers are appreciated and how far they go in keeping this ministry alive.</p> <p>Sincere prayer to our God and King on our behalf will do more for this ministry than ANY other form of support. Your financial support is also appreciated.</p> <p>They all – great and small – go toward keeping us alive and expanding in the direction the Lord wants us to go.</p> <p>We thank you so much for this form of support and sacrifice.</p> <p>Finally, we also thank everyone who has ever stepped forward and volunteered their time and talents to the ministry.</p> <p>This studio right now is full of people who give part of their lives to seeing Heart, and now the Grey Generation, produced and aired each week.</p> <p>You see me, but behind me are the vital organs of our ministry – the heart, the lungs, the arteries – I’m just the face and mouth.</p>
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	We thank all of you for whatever form of support you can lend to help keep Alathea Ministries alive in this fallen world.
Emails	
Phone calls	
Conclusion	

<p>LIVE!</p> <p>From the “Mecca of Mormonism”</p> <p>- Salt Lake City, Utah -</p> <p>THIS . . . is Heart of the Matter . . .</p> <p>“Where Mormonism Meets Biblical Christianity Face to Face.”</p>	<p>Show 43</p> <p>End of Polygamy</p> <p>October 27th 2009</p> <p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>If you have family or friends who cannot get Heart through television give them a call and tell them to go to WWW.HOTM.TV</p> <p>And they can watch through streaming video from anywhere in the world!</p> <p>We have also archived hundreds of hour long programs for your enjoyment.</p> <p>HOTM.TV</p>	
<p><i>“I was a Born-Again Mormon”</i></p> <p>We recently to make the manuscript available online through a downloadable PDF.</p> <p>Go to www.hotm.tv and you can have the book in your hands within minutes.</p>	
<p>Calvary Campus announcement</p> <p>We invite you to join us Sundays to examine the Word of God, verse by verse in a “never-denominational” Bible study.</p>	

<p>In meet at the University of Utah in Salt Lake every Sunday afternoon from 2:30 till 3:30 and then in Logan at Utah State from 7 till 8pm.</p> <p>Go to www.calvarycampus.com for more informacion like times and directions.</p>	
<p>I haven't mentioned a great and reliable source for all things LDS – that's UTLM.org.</p> <p>They were the first on the block, provide tremendous research, and will give you the original source quotes from the archives of Mormon history.</p> <p>www.utlm.org</p> <p>Just stop by and see for yourself what they don't tell you.</p>	
<p>How about a couple up and coming events:</p> <p>First, on Sunday morning, November 15th I will be substitute Pastor at Sandy Ridge Community Church for that single Sunday Service. It begins at 11am. Join us and experience Sandy Ridge Community Church.</p> <p>Then on Friday November 20th and Saturday Novemeber 21st, I've been invited to speak at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church also out there in Sandy.</p> <p>At these two meetings I will be sharing how to share with your LDS family,</p>	

<p>friends, and neighbors. Those events both begin at 7pm.</p> <p>If you live in the area come on over and join us, meet some of the great people from Good Shepherd and see their heart for the Lord.</p> <p>Finally, this Saturday night, we are going live with our premiere of The Grey Generation.</p> <p>It is a live, call-in program for teens, a show we hope will give them another view – an opposing view – from what they are currently getting from the world.</p> <p>We hope you will join us.</p>	
<p>We had quite a bit of a response from Atheist and former atheist viewers who were either pleased with what we had to say last week or were quite disturbed by our approach.</p> <p>Our purpose was to speak to people who had abandoned faith in God as a result of religion burning them out.</p> <p>There is a huge audience who fit this bill.</p> <p>Our purpose was to get them to reconsider God as the MOST logical and viable place to rest ones faith on earth.</p> <p>If this did not please you . . . if you were insulted by our approach or our methods . . . we really don't care.</p> <p>God is living and calling to all and we</p>	

<p>are committed to sharing Him without shame. For every ten emails we received telling us our tactics weren't appreciated, there was one who said it caused them to reconsider their present state – and to reconsider God.</p> <p>This was our desire from the start.</p>	
<p>Last week I had a phone conversation with a man who wondered about my opinions now that we have been involved in this ministry for a number of years.</p> <p>As a Christian who has never been LDS, he read our book and watched many of our shows and was curious about what we have come to realize since the beginning, what we've learned, and if at this point if I could make any summary statements about the Mormon/Christian situation.</p> <p>He then asked me what the “greatest misunderstanding people have about our ministerial efforts.”</p> <p>I'd like to share my response.</p> <p>Alathea Ministries is focused on reaching, teaching, and serving in the cause and name of Jesus Christ:</p> <p>to reach out to others in His name, to teach others about Him, and to serve others as He commanded.</p> <p>It may surprise you, but this has been our mission statement since day one.</p> <p>Now, you might notice a few things about our stated mission – first we</p>	

don't say anything about the LDS.
Neither do we say anything about any
other church or religion.

Why.

We really don't care about the
organized religions of the world, about
memberships, or about people who
belong to "this place or that."

We care about reaching out to all.

Come to our Bible studies and you will
see that you are welcome no matter
who you are or what you believe.

We care about teaching all.

Our focus is on individuals and
families coming to a regenerative
relationship with Jesus Christ; to help
bring people into a relationship with
Him and Him alone.

It just so happens that I was LDS for
forty years, and so we speak to LDS
people on this particular program
about what prevents them from
knowing Him.

Yes, I go after their history and
doctrine and practices - but our
BOTTOM-LINE desire and goal is to
get any and all LDS to know they have
been born-again - and to let GOD lead
them where He will thereafter.

Every now and again we are blessed
with the opportunity to meet a member
of the LDS church who "gets" what we
are doing and are able to see the
underlying purpose of why we say and

do what we do against Mormonism here on the air.

Unfortunately, there remain far too many Mormons who automatically slap the label of “anti-Mormon” on us in an effort to distort or thwart our efforts to challenge Mormonism.

I understand their fears – but they won’t stop us from reaching, teaching, and or serving in His name.

At the same time, and to me in an even more disturbing way, we face the growing cancer of radical Christian dogmatists who literally make it their business to scrutinize and police the body for anyone who thinks or acts differently than themselves.

I mean, this people are fanatically frightening.

To receive Jesus by faith, experience rebirth, read and study the Word and love others as a result of their faith is NEVER enough for these types – they, like many LDS – want *total* conformity and allegiance to their rabid and fanatical mindsets and God help you if you differ from what they claim must be thought, said, and done.

To make our position clear, let me say this:

I would rather have remained an active but born-again Mormon than to *ever* join forces with these, these narrow, mean, petty, fanatics who strain at a gnat while swallowing a camel. 9

And with that, let's have a prayer.	
PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER	PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER
<p>We left off two weeks ago with Utah Polygamy under fire.</p> <p>The year is 1885.</p> <p>LDS president John Taylor and his two counselors have fled the country because of their polygamous status.</p> <p>Two years later, in 1887, politicians passed the power-packed Edmonds-Tucker act which allowed wives involved in polygamy to actually testify <i>against</i> their husbands in courts of law.</p> <p>The Edmonds/Tucker act also made adultery a felony and then hit the Mormon Church right where they could not stand to be hit - in their assets.</p> <p>The Church was dis-incorporated and the seizure of all Church real estate valued at over \$50,000.00 began and be liquidated.</p> <p>Suddenly . . . the Mormons started to publicly deny the practice all together - again.</p> <p>And plural marriage went underground, where it has remained, even to some extent, to this day.</p> <p>By 1890 nearly 1300 Mormons had been jailed for polygamy. Wilford Woodruff had taken over as the new</p>	

Prophet of the church in 1889 and he literally inherited a nightmare.

Personally, Woodruff believed and practiced polygamy, and had even announced that essentially nothing could stop it from continuing on.

Woodruff believed that a favorable ruling from the Supreme Court would challenge the constitutionality of the Edmunds-Tucker Act.

But he believed wrong.

Bottom line, Woodruff was faced with either allowing federal marshals to dismantle and then sell off the unfinished Salt lake temple or to discontinue polygamy.

Well, let me re-phrase that, to make a Mormon announcement that polygamy is to be discontinued.

Woodruff, after having on a number of occasions defended the existence of plural marriage and claiming it would not ever go away, released an official manifesto on September 25th of 1890 which admonished every Mormon to no longer enter into plural marriage.

Said Woodruff:

"Inasmuch as laws have been enacted by Congress forbidding plural marriages, I hereby declare my intention to submit to those laws, and to use my influence with the members of the Church over which I preside to have them do likewise."

Author Richard Abanes points out in

his book "One Nation Under Gods," that the "revelation" differed dramatically from other revelations that had ever been given to the Saints, because:

The point: Mormonism's head man – their prophet, seer and revelator – Wilford Woodruff, issued a statement that would appease federal officers and the Supreme Court so that the liquidation of LDS assets would cease and their petition for statehood would be granted. But in the end, faithful Latter-day Saints continued to practice polygamy with the actual illegal marriages being secretly performed by leading members of the Church.

Lying, either to bring about a greater good or to protect the image of the Church has always been an acceptable practice within Mormonism.

Even the missionaries today, in most cases thinking they have the right to withhold information to seeking investigators will, for the good of the cause, not reveal all that the investigator needs to know about the religion they are buying into.

Most members will do the same thing.

Deception is part of the founding church and is alive and well today – justified especially if it is so done in the name of “sharing the gospel” or defending the “good name” of the Church.

While the facts today proved absolutely contrary, Wilford Woodruff swore in court that polygamous men were to only live with one wife and that polygamy was prohibited.

Listen to an extract from Wilford Woodruff’s testimony. Tell me, can you hear the wordsmithing going on in his head?

(Put Extract here)

My friends, there is no easy way to put this other than the man the LDS called their prophet, Wilford Woodruff, was a liar, for what he testified was simply not true.

In reference to this testimony,

Abraham Cannon wrote in his journal that Wilford Woodruff told his apostles the he “was placed in such a position on the witness stand that he could not answer other than he did.”

Yes, he could.

In 1911 Apostle Matthew Cowley said in his statements before the Council of the Twelve:

“I have always been taught that when the brethren were in a tight place that it would not be amiss to lie to help them out. One of the first Presidency of the Church made the statement some years ago that he would “lie like hell to help his brethren.”

My friends, LDS President Wilford Woodruff was a liar.

Brigham Young and Joseph Smith Jr. were confirmed liars too. And I don’t know about John Taylor, the third president of the LDS faith. But what I do know is three of the four first prophets, seers, and revelators of Mormonism are proven liars.

And why did Woodruff lie?

So Mormonism could retain its assets and Utah could become a state.

Trusting that this religious group was telling the truth, the US Government in 1896 granted, in good faith, statehood to the Utah territory.

Guess what happened?

The number of Utah polygamous

marriages rose immediately causing the Salt Lake Tribune to accuse LDS leaders of deception.

The very year statehood was granted, a future president of the Church, Joseph F Smith, while speaking in at a meetinghouse dedication, defied the manifesto and said:

“Take care of your polygamous wives; we don’t care for Uncle Sam now.”

Wilford Woodruff suddenly died in 1898 and Lorenzo Snow, a practicing polygamist, took the helm.

When LDS historian BH Roberts was denied a seat in the House of Representatives because he was a polygamist, the Mormon leadership tried to circumvent the illegal nature of polygamy by authoring the Evan’s bill, which would make aspects of it legal again.

Even though the bill was vetoed by the Utah Governor at the time, the American people got wind that the Mormons were trying to reintroduce it – now as a state in the Union – and a nationwide uproar commenced.

This culminated in a exhaustive investigation by the US senate into the LDS Church.

One Mormon Senator by the name of Reed Smoot had his congressional seat hanging by a threat as a result of this investigation.

In 1901, Lorenzo Snow, then President

of the Church died and Joseph F Smith, a man who had taken more wives even after the manifesto and had also encouraged others to do the same, took office.

Between 1902 and 1904, he personally allowed at least sixty-three plural marriages to secretly occur.

But even though Smith was in favor of the Mormon eternal principle, US governmental pressures forced him to take some drastic measures to end it as an acceptable practice among the Utah LDS faithful.

Naturally, Smith was a liar like most of the “prophets” who preceeded him, but this time, what became known as the Reed Smoot hearings exposed the theater of lies these supposed spiritual leaders of Mormonism would tell.

Mormonism would recover.

They ultimately excised the actual practice of Mormonism and regained some national forgiveness by instituting a public relations campaign that started slowly but has continued to thrive to this very day.

Still, like yesteryear, they never, ever present the whole truth – only what they want you to hear and know.

And so the practice of saying one thing publicly and doing another privately, has in many ways, among the Mormons, became a way of life – even today.

<p>It is present in every missionary discussion.</p> <p>It is alive every time a Mormon shares their faith.</p> <p>And it oozes out of ever public relations campaign and commercial they air.</p> <p>You've been warned.</p>	
<p>Let's open up the phone lines:</p> <p>(801) 973-8820 (801) 973-TV20</p> <p>First time callers, please. LDS callers if at all possible. Please turn down your television sets once you have spoken with an operator.</p>	
<p>SPOT FOR HOTM PARTNERS</p>	
<p>EMAILS</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p>	<p>4.</p> <p>5.</p> <p>6.</p> <p>7.</p>
<p>CONCLUSION - (1 minute to go)</p> <p>Well, we're at the end of the show for tonight.</p> <p>Please join us this Saturday night - Halloween - October 31st at 10:30pm for the launching of our newest Alatheia Ministries television program</p>	

for teens – THE GREY GENERATION. If that’s too late for your little heads, then we’ll see you next week here, on Heart of the Matter.	
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<p>LIVE!</p> <p>From the “Mecca of Mormonism”</p> <p>- Salt Lake City, Utah -</p> <p>THIS . . . is <i>Heart of the Matter</i> . . .</p> <p>“Where Mormonism Meets Biblical Christianity Face to Face.”</p>	<p>Show 46 Islam and Mormonism</p> <p>November 24th 2009</p>
	<p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>If you have family or friends who cannot get Heart through television give them a call and tell them to go to WWW.HOTM.TV</p> <p>And they can watch through streaming video from anywhere in the world!</p>	
<p>I was a Born-Again Mormon is available for you to download through a PDF.</p> <p>Go to www.bornagainmormon.com to get it through this avenue.</p> <p>If you don’t have a computer, we are working on getting the hard copy version done.</p>	
<p>The Bible is the actual, living Word of God.</p> <p>Learn what it says - in context - for there is no more important action a Christian can take in overcoming the self and the world.</p> <p>Calvary Campus every Sunday, a never-denominational Bible study.</p> <p>Go to www.calvarycampus.com for more information.</p>	
<p>Coming up . . .</p>	

<p>This Sunday at 11am I will be teaching the sermon at Sandy Ridge Community Church located at _____. All are welcome. My text, assigned by Pastor Travis Mitchell, who will be out town, is:</p> <p>Matthew 6:14 <i>"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."</i></p> <p>Come, and let us reason together.</p> <p>That's this Sunday Sandy Ridge Community Church.</p>	
<p>On Friday and Saturday night of last week I had the great blessing to be a guest speaker at Good Shepherd Lutheran, also in Sandy.</p> <p>It was really nice to gather with like minded believers, seekers, and people who had come out, or were looking at the possibility of coming out of Mormonism.</p> <p>We gathered in peace, and love, and in the common desire to share Jesus with our LDS family, friends, and neighbors.</p> <p>They're doing good work out there at Good Shepherd Lutheran. It was an honor to be apart of what they are all about.</p>	
<p>One of the issues non-LDS have always faced living here in the Mecca of Mormonism is the separation of church and state.</p>	

Shortly after Brigham Young set up permanent camp here in the Salt Lake Valley, charges of his establishing a theocracy (where there was no division between the power of the Church and the people of the state) came forward.

Anyone who has lived here long enough knows the influence Mormonism attempts to have over everything they can – including the bars, entertainment, education and the press – when possible.

Recently, I received word about a situation that occurred in the Granite School District located here in the Salt Lake area.

It seem a high school teacher made the following assignment to the class:

“Attend a religious service or activity of a different denomination than what you belong to or would normally associate with.”

Got that? Attend a service that is different from the church you would normally associate with.

Then the assignment was:

“Write your observations and feelings in a two page response. Also, compare and contrast your religion/beliefs to the different denomination you attended.”

What the LDS teacher of this class may not have anticipated when handing this assignment out was that some of the students in the class were

Christians and would visit an LDS ward to make comparisons – which is exactly what occurred.

So now we have a Christian teenager going to an LDS ward, as assigned, and then doing as she was told in comparing and contrasting her beliefs with the LDS Church she visited.

READ first paragraph.

In response to the first paragraph, the LDS teacher wrote:

“5th Grade Opening.”

READ THIRD PARAGRAPH

And the teacher wrote in response?

“Incorrect info?”

And then added, *“Perhaps you should have chose a different religion?”*

READ THE FIFTH PARAGRAPH

And the teacher wrote in response?

“So do Catholics!” and then *“You’re coming across as too judgmental! A different religion would have worked better for you and this assignment.”*

READ THE SIXTH PARAGRAPH

“They are a Christian Church!”

READ THE CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH

<p>And the teachers concluding remarks?</p> <p><i>"The assignment was to promote good feelings and open mindedness."</i></p> <p><i>"This assignment defeated its purpose" – and then she added: "Choose a different religion."</i></p> <p>I would love to read the other kids papers from the class and see how she graded and responded to them – especially to those LDS kids who visited a charismatic pentacostal service.</p> <p>The Christian student received a low C on the paper from her LDS teacher.</p> <p>And the battle to separate church from state continues to rage here in the Mecca of Mormonism.</p> <p>And with that, let's have a prayer:</p>	
<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>	<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>
<p>Before we step in and finish out the year with a look at role of racism in the LDS Church, we are going to take a minute and show some of the amazing similarities between Islam and Mormonism.</p> <p>Most of the information from which I am quoting about Islam comes from Sam Soloman, the head of the Islamic department at Elam Ministries.</p> <p>Mr. Solomon, who is an expert in Islamic studies and is also a former</p>	

Muslim, was trained at a very high level of the faith. Today he is considered a formidable source of information regarding Sharia law.

So here goes.

Someone smart once said, *"When it comes to Gospel Truths there is nothing new under the sun but heresy and deception."*

There was never a more true statement said – especially when discussing faith movements like Mormonism and Islam.

Because of an overwhelming push for people today to focus on *"similarities between faiths"* rather than obvious and blatant differences, it can be tedious to discern *"truth from error"* when comparing Islam and Mormonism to Biblical Christianity.

Most people are so fearful of offending or be convicted of a hate crime, that they simply smile and say things like, *"We all worship the same God, right?"*

Well, according to the Bible, we really don't.

Where heresy is the only new game since Jesus and his twelve laid out the principles of the Good News, the similarities found in the heretical faiths can be astonishing.

Let me share with you no less than twenty-five similarities that Mormonism and Islam have in common.

<p>1. Islam was founded by the man Muhammed around 500AD while Mormonism was founded by the man Joseph Smith in 1830.</p>	
<p>2. Both Mormonism and Islam use terminology that sound and seem Christian, but when defined and broken down prove to be quite different – even contrary - to Gospel truth.</p> <p>Since almost all of the terms used in Islam and many in Mormonism originate from the Bible, understanding the differences between them be different – especially when the role of Muslim and Mormon apologists is to make them SEEM the same.</p>	
<p>3. Where many people today believe that Islam means peace, this is neither accurate or Qur’anic. Islam actually means “submission” which in the end means submission to an assortment of laws and rules and cultural demands – same as Mormonism, for to be either Muslim or Mormon, acceptance and submission to the ways established by their founders are mandatory.</p>	
<p>4. Muslim scholars agree that Islam is an all encompassing system; it is sociopolitical, socioreligious, socioeconomic, socioeducational, legislative, judiciary, and even militaristic in its influence. With the</p>	

exception of a military force, Mormonism is no different. And though somewhat invisible today, Mormonism, at its roots, was, and continues to be, extremely militaristic.

Continuing with this “all-encompassing theme, Islamic scholar Soloman writes:

“Freedom of choice does not exist in Islam; neither is religion a private or personal matter. All decisions have already been made by Allah or his prophet Muhammad, so Muslims have no choice but to follow these divine regulations. Whoever strays has indeed strayed in error.”

Similarly, in Mormonism, “all decisions have been made by God through His LDS prophets and the “brethren,” so faithful LDS really have no option but to tow the line – *to conform* – or be cast out.

This is so true that LDS leaders like have actually said:

“When the brethren have spoken, the thinking has been done.”

Listen to the way Soloman describes the founder of Islam:

“Muhammad himself claimed authority from the top to bottom in the budding Islamic entity,

<p><i>including a prophetic office, being a supreme legislator, a judge, commander in chief of the armies, and head of the Muslim community.</i></p> <p><i>He established a state, sent armies, conquered his enemies and collected taxes."</i></p> <p>Now listen to the way award-winning historian Fawn Brodie described Joseph Smith:</p> <p>In summary, the institutions of Mormonism and Islam strive to have say in every area of their adherents lives.</p>	
<p>5. Islam is founded primarily on two books of writings. The first book is the Qur'an, which Muslims believe to be "the most correct book on the face of the earth."</p> <p>The second set of writings is known as the Sunnah, which is an Arabic word that means, "<i>to form, shape, mold, set a path,</i>" and points to the actual life, revelations, and the teachings of</p>	

<p>Muhammed as a man.</p> <p>Mormonism is primarily founded on four books of scripture, with two - the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants - more emphasized than the others.</p> <p>Latter-day Saints believe the Book of Mormon to be the most correct book on earth and their Doctrine and Covenants, which is used to <i>“form, shapen, mold and set a path for the Church,”</i> literally points to the actual life, revelations, and the teachings of Joseph Smith as a man.</p>	
<p>6. Islam claims that the Qur'an, to be the final revelation of Allah to mankind through his prophet Muhammed.</p> <p>Mormonism claims the Book of Mormon contains the fullness of the Gospel and though they do not call it the final revelation of God to mankind, no other LDS prophet has produced anything like it, so it may as well be.</p> <p>What the LDS call Modern Revelation from a living prophet is almost a non-event as very very few things have been added to what their founder, Joseph Smith, originally said.</p>	
<p>7. The Qur'an and Sunnah was given to Muhammed piecemeal over a period of many years -</p>	

<p>and by direct <i>"revelation."</i></p> <p>The Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants were given to Joseph Smith piecemeal over a period of many years, and by, (ahem) <i>"direct revelation."</i></p>	
<p>8. Latter-day Saints believe that the original source for the Book of Mormon to be from <i>"golden plates,"</i> which were taken to heaven once the book was done.</p> <p>Muslims believe that the original version of the Qur'an has been preserved on what they call <i>"the eternal tablet,"</i> which was brought down into this atmospheric realm temporarily to inspire Muhammed's mind.</p>	
<p>9. The Angel Gabriel inspired Muhammed to write what he wrote and assisted him in the process.</p> <p>The angel Moroni told Joseph to write the Book of Mormon and assisted him in the process.</p>	
<p>10. Unlike the Bible, the Qur'an has no historical evidences or documents that can support its historical authenticity or literary reliability.</p> <p>So too, the Book of Mormon, though full of fantastic material claims, has not one provable material support to authenticate its historical authenticity or literary reliability.</p>	

<p>11. Muslims claim that the Qur'an "support and perfects" the Bible by clarifying it.</p> <p>Latter-day Saints call the Book of Mormon "Another witness or another testament of Jesus Christ," and believe it too, clarifies, or completes the Bible.</p>	
<p>12. But both the Qur'an and the Book of Mormon, while claiming to support the Bible, actually contradict it, thereby placing their believers in the position to choose between the two.</p> <p>The result?</p> <p>Muslims choose the Qur'an and Mormons choose the BOM – hands down.</p> <p>This is the primary aim of ALL counterfeit faiths.</p>	
<p>13. The contradictions found throughout the teaching of Muhammed are written off by Islamic apologists as "abrogations," meaning later revelations of God supersede prior ones.</p> <p>Within Mormonism, the same game is played as it is accepted that "a living prophet trumps a dead one" and the earlier revelations of Joseph Smith which contradict later ones are seen as only stepping stones in the spiritual growth of the man.</p>	

<p>14. The Qur'an actually teaches and testifies of the coming of Muhammed, and Muhammed actually rewrote parts of the Bible so that it, too, testified of his coming and ministry.</p> <p>The Book of Mormon actually teaches and testifies of the coming of Joseph Smith, and Joseph Smith actually rewrote parts of the Bible so that it too, testified of his coming and ministry!</p>	
<p>15. Where the Qur'an acts as the theological framework of Islam, the Sunnah actually shapes at least 80% of the Muslims life and faith.</p> <p>So too with the Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants as the Book of Mormon could be seen as the core to faith, but the Doctrine and Covenants actually describes most of what is done within the administration of Mormon life and religion.</p>	
<p>16. Muslims accuse the Jews and Christians of tampering with the Bible (especially in order to remove prophecies that spoke of Muhammed) and therefore consider the Bible to be corrupted. This led to Islam altering doctrine relative to the uniqueness of Jesus, His teachings, His person, and His atoning work.</p> <p>Mormonism accused the early translators of the Bible – in particular the Catholics – of also tampering with the “plain and</p>	

<p>precious” truth contained therein and therefore consider the Bible unreliable. This led Mormonism to ultimately alter doctrine relative to the uniqueness of Jesus, His teachings, His person, and His atoning work.</p>	
<p>17. In Islam, all non-Muslim’s are enemies to Allah, and their response – especially to Jews and Christians – is one of violence.</p> <p>While physical violence is not the norm in Mormonism today, non-LDS outsiders in Brigham Young’s day were treated with a similar contempt – including violence.</p>	
<p>18. In a similar vein, Islam believes that all people on earth are born Muslims, and when they find or discover the eternal truths about the faith, they do not “convert,” but instead “revert” to what they had always been but just forgot to know.</p> <p>Those who have not reverted stand in a state of rebellion to Allah. When someone does “revert” there is great joy in the ranks and that person is welcomed “home.”</p> <p>Similarly, Latter-day Saints embrace the idea that all of the human race is in fact in possession of the truth from a united pre-mortal existence, and are said to have “re-discovered, found, or had the veil lifted” from their minds when they embrace the Father’s plan and become LDS in this life.</p>	

<p>19. Joseph Smith, and thus Mormonism today, taught that the LDS gospel has been known and practiced from the beginning of recorded history; and that all prophets from the past, were tacitly, Mormon. One man recently told a group of LDS kids here in Salt Lake City that Jesus was Mormon.</p> <p>Naturally, Islam teaches that all of the Old Testament prophets were tacitly Islam and they all preached Islam. Jesus is also included in this group.</p>	
<p>20. Islam has had a long and abiding desire to both convert the world and to then rule over it. Sura 7:158 tells them that all people need to be “brought back to Islam . . . by every means necessary.”</p> <p>Islam divides the world into two great territories: the Land of Islam and the Land of War.</p> <p>So too Mormonism, from its foundations, has also longed to both convert the world . . . and then to rule over it.</p> <p>Previous programs have provided AMPLE examples of this ambition.</p> <p>At the same time, Mormonism has long broken the world down into two polarized groups – members and non-members, those who live in Zion (Utah) and those who live in the</p>	

<p>Mission Field (the equivalent to the Islamic “Land of War.”)</p>	
<p>21. Islamic law declares that insulting the prophet Muhammed is equal to insulting Allah since they are respected as representing one another.</p> <p>In some Islamic countries, like Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, disrespecting or refuting Muhammed is worthy of an immediate public execution.</p> <p>When Brigham Young settled Utah, the people who followed Him found themselves under similar religious fervency. To question or deny the faith, Brigham Young, or the prophet Joseph Smith could lead to death, but always lead to people being wholly rejected by family, friends, and community at large.</p> <p>Today, and though not nearly as extreme, the fact remains that to disrespect either Joseph Smith Jr. and/or “the living prophet” is certain ground for being a social outcast – even to the point of having your high School English teacher give you a C for speaking your opinion in paper that calls for opinion.</p> <p>It is my simple opinion that if and when Mormonism gets to the same number of members as Islam, and maintains its economic status in the world, it will return to the extremist ways of Brigham Young and flex its muscle on any who challenge or question it.</p>	
<p>.</p>	

<p>Finally, there are four main ingredients or working philosophies that keep Islam alive.</p> <p>I would suggest these four ingredients are also present in the LDS faith today.</p> <p>The first is the doctrine of "Takkiya."</p> <p>The second is the doctrine of abrogation.</p> <p>The third is the doctrine of biblical corruption, and</p> <p>The fourth is the doctrine of obedience.</p> <p>Let me briefly speak to each of these.</p>	
<p>First, the doctrine of Takkiya is better understood as the doctrine of "cover-up."</p> <p>Takkiya literally mean, is Arabic, "caution, fear, or disguise."</p> <p>And it sanctions lying in order to advance the cause of Islam or to preserve its good name.</p> <p>Takkiya is very effective in Islamic apologetics because rarely will a person ever get the straight story.</p> <p>Islam expert Soloman admits that he used Takkiya frequently when he was Muslim and involved in debating Christians - it was all in order to "protect the faith."</p> <p>Similarly, Mormons have long been accused of the practice of "Lying for the Lord," the tactic of using white lies</p>	

and subtle deceptions so as to protect the faith from scrutiny.	
<p>The Doctrine of Abrogation, as we mentioned before, was a doctrine of convenience. When Muhammed stated one doctrine and then later pronounced a contrary one, the doctrine of Abrogation stepped in and justified the inconsistency by saying Allah is in charge and that He can change his mind and statements willy-nilly.</p> <p>This is accepted by believing students of Islam world-wide.</p> <p>Mormonism justifies its changing doctrines and inconsistencies with the convenience of "modern revelation."</p> <p>To them, there is nothing inconsistent when an LDS prophet says one thing and ten years later they or another prophet, say another.</p> <p>In the end, all of it is what Muslims call, "Abrogation."</p>	
The doctrine of biblical corruption is exactly as it sounds . . . and both Islam and Mormonism propagate it as true.	
And finally, Islam and Mormonism both embrace a doctrine of strict, legalistic obedience to other men to one extent or another.	
<p>So there they are, some similarities between Islam and Mormonism.</p> <p>Both were religions started by men claiming to be visited by angels.</p> <p>Both have additional scripture which</p>	

<p>contradict the biblical Good News.</p> <p>Both claim these scriptures came from heavenly plates or tablets.</p> <p>Both claim a belief in a different Jesus.</p> <p>Both demand total allegiance to their faith.</p> <p>Both are highly legalistic extending to even diet, dress, and finances.</p> <p>Both have a past and present history of extremism.</p> <p>Both claim the Bible has been corrupted.</p> <p>Both claim their additional book clarifies the Bible.</p> <p>Both have founders who have added their own names into the Bible narrative through re-translation.</p> <p>Both practice some form of the doctrine of Takkiya, which in simple terms means "lying for the cause."</p> <p>Both practice the doctrine of abrogation, which makes it permissible for a latter revelation to contradict an earlier one.</p> <p>Both treat defectors from the faith harshly.</p> <p>Both say that to insult their founder is to insult God.</p> <p>Both state their founder's contributions are essential to the salvation of man.</p>	
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<p>Both desire to convert the world.</p> <p>Both desire to govern the world.</p> <p>Both use biblical terms which have an entirely different meaning than how Christians use them.</p> <p>Both represent an all encompassing faith which invades every aspect of a person's life . . . and . . .</p> <p>Both are non-biblical, non-Christian, deceptive religious world powers which in the end, are the product of a man.</p>	
<p>Hey, let's open up the phones!</p> <p>(801) 973-8820 (801) 973-8820</p> <p>Please, LDS callers preferred. First time callers. Have your question or comments ready.</p> <p>While we wait for our operators to clear the calls, let's take a minute and watch a spot about our partners program.</p>	
RUN PARTNERS SPOT	
<p>EMAILS</p> <p>1. 3. 2. 4.</p>	
<p>CONCLUSION</p> <p>Hey, remember, this coming Sunday, 11am, Sandy Ridge Community Church.</p>	<p>See you there, and if not, we'll see you next week here on Heart of the Matter!</p>

<p>LIVE! From the “Mecca of Mormonism” - Salt Lake City, Utah -</p> <p>THIS . . . is Heart of the Matter . . .</p> <p>“Where Mormonism Meets Biblical Christianity Face to Face.”</p>	<p>Show 47 The Roll of Race in Mormonism - Part I December 1st 2009</p> <p>And I’m your host, Shawn McCraney</p>
<p>If you have family or friends who cannot get Heart through television give them a call and tell them to go to WWW.HOTM.TV</p> <p>And they can watch through streaming video from anywhere in the world!</p>	
<p>We’re really excited about the prospects that 2010 are bringing here on Heart of the Matter.</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>We’re going to do an alphabetized topical examination of how the LDS use the Bible to justify their errant doctrines and practices while at the same time proving what the Bible actually says about it all.</p> <p>One week we’ll discuss apostles, the next Baptism and the next baptism for the dead, etc. etc.</p> <p>We think that these programs will actually do more to show how Mormonism is not Christian than anything we have done in the past.</p>	

<p>I will do my best to just teach what the Word says on these topics. You do your best to prove me wrong.</p> <p>Stay tuned and spread the word.</p>	
<p>I had the blessed opportunity to be a guest pastor at Sandy Ridge Community Church this past week. It was wonderful to be able to meet up with the folks out there and study God's word.</p> <p>More and more we are receiving invitations from churches large and small to guest speak about the miracle of this ministry and how the Lord is working.</p> <p>Sometimes we speak during the week, sometimes on a Sunday.</p> <p>It's up to the pastor.</p> <p>If you would like to arrange such a visit, have your pastor give us a call at:</p> <p>1 888</p> <p>Or he can email us at shawn@alatheaministries.com for more detailed information.</p> <p>In many cases, it is up to our viewers and fans to make these church events happen. So far, they have been a win/win for this ministry and the Churches involved.</p>	
<p>I recently had a supporter of the ministry share an insight she had when she was a member of the LDS church.</p>	

She said, "You know, as I was flying to go on my mission in London, England and I had this great feeling of appreciation for my country overcome me." She went on to identify this feeling as patriotism, but realized, at the same time, that it was the very same feeling she had for her own family.

Then, even as a young missionary, she said that she realized she could not tell the difference between these emotional responses she felt toward her nation and her family and those she had for the church.

It was all one and the same – based in emotion.

It was at this point on her full time mission that she realized there was no difference, within Mormonism, between the feelings of patriotism, and for family, and the way she had taught to discern Truth - through good feelings.

And even at this young age she realized something was wrong – because feelings can be sooooo misleading as they produce allegiance to things regardless of whether they are true or not.

I can't help but think of people in my life who have said things like, "I'm unsure about the divinity of Jesus, but I know the Church is true."

This is the result of emotionalism.

In the same vein someone could easily

say, "I don't believe in God, but God bless America, land that I love!"

When emotions do both the convincing and are the motivation, truth and right are irrelevant.

Adolph Hilter used mighty emotionalism to create a nationalist fervor among the Germans.

Swelling patriotism.
A strong sense of a master race family.

And with this, he also got many people to believe and do some very bad things.

A few days ago I caught a program on a flight from California about the Coca Cola company. In it, the host described Coca Cola's marketing strategy as being one where they sought to tap into the most emotional elements of a persons life - their patriotism, their families, being in love.

They seek to produce a lump in the throat - the kind we get when we see a commercial of Mean Joe Green giving some kid his towel - because the kid thought enough on the hero to pass him a ice-cold Coke after a game.

The program went on to make comparisons to the marketing tactics of McDonald's, Hallmark, and the travel and tourism industry.

All of them using touching imagery.
Emotional phraseology.
Soft and lilting music.
Heavenly lighting.

Family.
And Images of Love.

“there’s hope in their words,
And emotion in their eyes,
It’s so easy to be misled by their sad
and gentle guise,
And like fools we trust the delivery
But it’s all just drunk sincerity.”

It’s Disney, Coca Cola, McDonald’s,
and my friends, its Mormonism.

Imagine for a moment, the God of the
Old Testament wiping a guy out for
touching something in order to be
helpful.

Imagine Isaiah walking around naked
or Elisha cursing the forty-two children
and two she-bears coming out of the
wood and ripping them apart.

Picture John the Baptist - filthy,
unshaven, and standing there in a
camels hair coat ripping the heads off
grasshoppers with his teeth.

Think of Jesus and hear the sounds of
the whip tearing at his back, the
pounding of nails through His hands,
the blood, the dirt, the suffering.

My friends, God does NOT speak to us
like a Mormon or McDonald’s
commercial.

He speaks to us through His word.
Through truth. By the cross.

Remember, Jesus said:

“Peace I leave with you. My peace I

<p>give unto you. NOT AS THE WORLD GIVETH, give I unto you.”</p> <p><u>Not</u> . . . as the WORLD gives.</p> <p>And with this, let’s have a prayer.</p>	
<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>	
<p>We are going to finish the year out – God willing – by examining “The Role of Racism in Mormonism.”</p> <p>By endeavoring to examine “the role of Racism in Mormonism,” there is more at stake than just looking at the doctrines and attitudes of the past within the religion.</p> <p>We must also asked: <i>“If racism actually played a part in the establishment of Mormonism, have those seeds been eradicated from its spiritual foundations or does it continue to live on today?”</i></p> <p>Also, we need to ask, <i>“How trustworthy is the spiritual leadership of the LDS prophets, who, at one time, not only condoned but promoted racism within the ranks of the LDS, but now, refute it?”</i></p> <p>We must ask, <i>“How can a Latter-day Saint know the spiritual advice they are getting today – which is supposed to be eternal - will not also be refuted in the future?”</i></p> <p>And finally, we might ask, <i>“What is at</i></p>	<p>GRAPHIC: “The Role of Racism in Mormonism.”</p>

<p><i>the core of racism? And does the Bible support racism, bigotry, or exclusion since Jesus came and broke down the veil with the Good News?"</i></p> <p>We'll try and answer these, and other questions, over the course of the next few weeks.</p>	
<p>In order to really get a handle on racism within the LDS Church, we must go to their scriptures – particularly, the Book of Mormon and the Pearl of Great Price.</p> <p>From these modern “revelations” which are received as “being of God” by most believing LDS, we find the earliest seeds of racism present.</p>	
<p>In the Book of Mormon, 1st Nephi 13:15, a vision is recited by one of the main characters in the book, and in his description he says:</p> <p><i>“And I beheld the Spirit of the Lord, that it was upon the Gentiles, and they did prosper and obtain the land for their inheritance; (READY?) and I beheld that they were white, and exceedingly fair and beautiful, like unto my people, before they were slain.”</i></p> <p>The line that the Gentiles seen in this vision were, <i>“white and exceedingly fair and beautiful”</i> is key to understanding the mindset of early Mormonism relative to race.</p> <p>White was akin to beautiful and worthy.</p> <p>Dark was akin to ugly and rebellious.</p>	

Later in the Book of Mormon, it describes what God did when He divided the bad sons of a family from the good ones:

"And he had caused the cursing to come upon them, yea, even a sore cursing, because of their iniquity, for behold, they had hardened their hearts against him, that they had become like unto flint, wherefore, as they were white, and exceedingly fair and delightsome, that they might not be enticing unto my people, the Lord did cause a skin of blackness to come upon them."

2nd Nephi 5:21

Notice the correlation between the *"hardness of their hearts"* and the color of their skin. And that in order to keep the good from being "enticed" by the hard-hearted, God caused a what? *"A skin of blackness to come upon them."*

Later, in the Book of Mormon, in Jacob, the writer describes the Lamanite people (who were the darken skins descendents of a BOM character named Laman) by saying:

"Behold the Lamanites, your brethren, whom ye hate because of their filthiness and the cursing which had come upon their skin . . ."

Got that? Then two verses later, the writer shares a "concern" he has for his white skinned people, saying:

"O my brethren, I fear that unless you repent of your sins that their skins" (referring to the evil

Lamanites) “. . . that their skins will be whiter than yours, when ye shall be brought with them before the throne of God.”

So here, in the Book of Mormon, the supposed ancient writer feared that unless his white brethren repented the skin of their evil brethren would become whiter than theirs.

Dark skin = evil and unrepentant!
White skin = good and humble!

In the BOM Alma, chapter 3:6-9, the writer explains what evil existed in the Lamanites that originally caused their skin to go from white to black. It says:

“And the skins of the Lamanites were dark, according to the MARK which was set upon their fathers, which was a curse upon them because of their transgression and their rebellion against their brethren, who consisted of Nephi, Jacob, and Joseph, and Sam, who were just and holy men.”

And then later, toward the end of the Book of Mormon, in 3rd Nephi 2:14-16, the writer describes an amazing dermatological event that was occurring in the land. It says:

“And it came to pass that those Lamanites (those are the dark-skinned people) who united with the Nephites and were numbers among the Nephites (the Nephites were the

white and delightsome people) their curse was taken from them, and their skin became white like unto the Nephites; And their young men and their daughters became exceedingly fair, and were numbered among the Nephites."

So, here in the Mormons most important spiritual book, there is a teaching that dark loathsome people, who are dark because of the hardness of their hearts, can and will in fact become white and delightsome, if they join the side of the spiritually enlightened.

This is in the Book of Mormon.

And here is one of the main points for the racism that existed, and continues to exist, in Mormonism yesterday and today.

Got that?

Okay. Those Book of Mormon passages set the racist stage for the Indians – and most other people of color.

Then there is another scriptural reference which gave and gives life to racism in Mormonism past and present.

It is found in a short reference in the Book of Moses, which is Joseph Smith's re-translation of the biblical book of Genesis and which is included in the LDS book of scripture they call the Pearl of Great Price.

The reference, found in Moses 7:22 reads:

“And Enoch also beheld the residue of the people which were the sons of Adam; and they were a mixture of all the seed of Adam save it was the seed of Cain, for the seed of Cain were black, and had not place among them.”

From this “scripture,” also provided by Joseph Smith, skin color was once again used as a barometer for righteousness – but this time, the black skin - or the mark - came from the sinful loins of Cain.

These are the primary scriptural sources within Mormonism that have to do with skin tone – with the Book of Mormon passages referring to the Indians and the book of Moses referring to black folks.

Now, take these two skin pigmentary positions and then we have to add a third influential factor that came from another popular teaching originating from one of Joseph Smith’s fanciful revelations.

This one is found in the Book of Abraham, which is also located in the LDS book of scripture called The Pearl of Great Price.

In the Book of Abraham, 3:22, there are writings that talk about there being “great and noble ones” who lived in a pre-mortal existence before coming to earth and gaining bodies.

According to Joseph Smith, he learned while looking at some old papyrus that Father Abraham had a vision of this pre-existence, and saw a premortal grand council where all these “great and noble ones” were gathered together.

Speaking of this great council and the great and noble spirits that were invited to participate, recently deceased LDS apostle Neil A Maxwell wrote (in “But for a small miracle,” pg. 93)

“Brother Joseph (Smith) was chosen for the last dispensation or seventh dispensation. At that time, the grand council set in heaven to organize this world, Joseph (Smith) was chosen to be the last and greatest prophet to lay the foundation of God’s work of the seventh dispensation.”

How did this “revelation” of Joseph Smith’s contribute to it’s racist position?

Well, if there were many “great and noble” ones in the pre-mortal existence, then there must have also been “lowly and not-so-noble” ones too.

And guess who they would be, once they came to earth?

Anyone who didn’t have white and delightful skin!

So, to summarize for simplicity, what

we have in place that has fostered a tremendous and long living racist mentality among the LDS is:

The belief that skin color and righteousness are linked – as taught in the Book of Mormon and the Book of Moses.

The idea that Indian folk have a dark skin because of the curse placed on their forefathers due to being evil and that black people have a curse on their skin because of the evil nature of their forefather, Cain.

Finally, the idea that if there were great and noble souls who existed before the world was (like Joseph Smith) there must also have been LESS than noble souls – souls who deserved a lesser life here on earth – souls who deserved a dark skin based on their lives and actions in the pre-existence.

So there's the scriptural foundation from which LDS racism grew. And boy, did it ever grow!

Now, let me briefly speak to several modern defenses the LDS use to justify their racism of the past – and I believe present.

I once used these defenses as an LDS missionary for the Church and as an active member thereafter.

Why?

They were handy, ready-made statements of convenience that I never really took the time to think about

then.

But I have now.

The first line of defense that is often used says something to the effect that:

"God Himself could be called a racist because of His dealings with ancient Israel! I mean, He only allowed the literal descendents of Aaron to hold the priesthood, right?"

Now listen carefully.

There is a big difference between God saying ONLY a specific small line of men could perform the priesthood duties in the temple, and God saying "Everyone can perform these duties *except* black people!"

The arguments are not one and the same.

It is not racist to exclude all people but one type from doing certain things.

It is racist to include all people but one from doing certain things.

Get the difference?

Another defense – used frequently today – is that the ban was lifted in 1978. *"So why worry about it now? I mean, we're loving today toward the blacks and Indians, Shawn. Look around, we even adopt them into our homes!"*

First of all, just like the doctrine of

<p>polygamy, the doctrine and teachings on skin tone and pre-existence are STILL present in what you accept as scripture!</p> <p>Who cares what you allow. What do you believe in your heart of hearts?</p> <p>Second, the seeds are still present today in the hearts of the majority of Latter-day Saints who have been members since before 1978 – or people over 35 years of age who have been raised in the Church.</p> <p>And these people are the ones who for the most part fill the leadership positions of the current church.</p> <p>I would therefore suggest that these racist ideas are still alive and well – as they cannot be helped but be passed from the old guard to the new.</p> <p>Finally, there has never been an apology. Just justifications and fallacious reasonings about why racism was allowed to run amok in Mormonism.</p> <p>How a black person – or a brown or yellow or red or “deeply suntanned individual” could ever feel comfortable in this religion KNOWING full well that the teachings are still in place – and no apology has ever been given – is beyond me . . . unless these people of color accept the doctrines as true!</p>	
<p>Once the teachings of Joseph Smith that skin color was a result of personal righteousness both here and in the make-believe pre-mortal existence, the</p>	

stage was set to start excluding certain races and people from being totally accepted into the religion – all because of the color of their skin.

Now, early on in the religion, Joseph Smith, I presume unaware of God's view on black men and the priesthood, actually gave a black man, Elijah Abel, the priesthood and ordained him to being what the LDS called a "seventy" in the church.

Some members today use this as evidence of the prophet's magnanimous heart, and others say he hadn't receive the fullness of the gospel yet.

But the 11th president of the Church, Harold B. Lee addressed the situation in a speech given April 19th 1961 at BYU. Lee was an ardent proponent of the curse of Cain myth and the idea that our actions in a pre-existence determined our place and skin color in this life.

This is what he said relative to Joseph Smith ordaining Elijah Abel back in the day:

(READ QUOTE)

I'm going to leave off with Joseph having ordained one black man wrongly.

Next week we'll continue forward, and hear what his teachings on skin color did to the minds of MILLIONS who believed themselves righteous – and white.

	<p>Before we go to the phones, we have to ask ourselves some reasonable questions.</p> <p>First, what kind of God makes changes to the skin pigmentation of people – from white and pure to dark and loathing - based on their attitudes, actions, and ideals? The Willy-Wonka God? Come on.</p> <p>And why hasn't God used this "pigmentology practice" on any other peoples throughout the history of world culture?</p> <p>How come Nazi Germans remained white and delightful?</p> <p>Why did the the Bolshivecks stay pale?</p> <p>The Manson Family? Old Charley Manson is even today white as a toilet seat.</p> <p>You see, the racial explanations Joseph included in the Book of Mormon were couched in the back wooded ideals of his day – and he included them in order to provide answers – no matter how ridiculous they appeared.</p> <p>America was getting settled and suddenly the white folk discovered all these red-skinned savages roaming about their back yards in loin cloths.</p> <p>"Damn, where on earth did these red folks a-come from!"</p> <p>Enter Joseph Smith who, having</p>

borrowed from popular theories already bantered around in his day and age, was willing to suggest some theories – and then claim they came from God!

Now, I'm uncertain as to what the percentages of the world are relative to skin color, but I would guess that at least 80% of the world is not "white and delightful."

So, while not only giving the people an fairly fanciful answer, Joseph gave whitey an ethnocentrically pleasing response, one which not only made all "white" people delightful, and all "dark" people loathsome, but told them they were this way based on their own pre-mortal righteousness.

Gosh this was appealing.

"We really are, better, aren't we?"

Those Arian guys up in northern Idaho do the same thing today.

As this stuff accumulated in his head, it helped Joseph, over time, flesh-out an entire religious system that I call "progressive theology" – or the doctrine on how men become Gods.

And where did all this conjecture go once it left Joseph's pen and paper?

Where all man-made ideas go that are ascribed to God and stamped with His authority – to heartlessness, exclusion, piety, and pride.

Next week we'll continue, examining

	now how these teaching formed the hearts and minds of millions of people past – and present.
<p>Let's open up the phone lines:</p> <p>(801) 973-8820 (801) 973-TV20</p> <p>Please, LDS callers – come on – step up. First time callers if at all possible. And please have your questions ready with the TV sets turned down.</p>	
<p>While the operators clear your calls let's take a break and air this spot for our partners program.</p> <p>We know there are a lot of very good ministries out there which are all calling for your support.</p> <p>If you are so inclined of the Lord, and if you are in a position to help us out after you have supported your church, we hope you will consider Alatheia Ministries as a viable ministry worthy of your consideration.</p>	
<p>Stay with us.</p> <p>EMAILS?</p>	

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	And I’m your host, Shawn McCraney
<p>If you have family or friends who cannot get Heart through television give them a call and tell them to go to WWW.HOTM.TV</p> <p>And they can watch through streaming video from anywhere in the world!</p>	
<p>I was a Born-Again Mormon is available for you to download through a PDF.</p> <p>Go to www.bornagainmormon.com to get it through this avenue.</p>	
<p>You know, the Word of God is amazing because when we read and hear it taught, it goes in and renews our minds.</p> <p>It literally takes out the old and bad and corrupt stuff we’ve accumulated from the world and philosophies of men and replaces that junk with what God has to say.</p> <p>There is NOTHING like the Word of God in making human beings new creatures in Christ.</p> <p>If you are interested in learning the Word of God we hold a bible study each and every Sunday.</p>	

<p>One in Logan at Utah State University and one at the University of Utah.</p> <p>Go to www.calvarycampus.com for more information like times and directions.</p> <p>I couldn't be more serious - if you want your life to change for the better, get in and study the Word of God - somewhere.</p>	
<p>Over the last few weeks we've mentioned that the year 2010 is going to be what we feel the most important year for Heart of the Matter.</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>We are going to go through and present a weekly topical study of the Bible verses the LDS use to support their errant teachings and show you what those passages really mean when taken in context of the Bible and the languages it was written in.</p> <p>We're going to do this alphabetically.</p> <p>52 topics like</p> <p>Apostasy Baptism Priesthood Prophets Sticks of Judah and Joseph Word of Wisdom Etc.</p> <p>Make sure you tape, Tivo, or join us live right here every Tuesday night of the week - and please, continue to share the program with your friends</p>	

and family.	
<p>You know, there are a lot of very good churches out there. And they all have a different approach to reaching and teaching people with the Word.</p> <p>Our ministry is pleased to stand behind three local churches – and they are all very different in their approach, but all united in biblical Christianity and are all places anyone would feel very comfortable bringing their LDS family and friends.</p> <p>That is important to us.</p> <p>Christ Evangelical in Orem, with Scott McKinney as pastor who is a great teacher of God’s Word.</p> <p>Grace Lutheran in Sandy, with Pastor Jeff Nellermeoe, who offers another great approach to seeking God.</p> <p>And Sandy Ridge Community Church, pastured by Travis Mitchell, which is a fine gathering of believers too.</p> <p>The beauty of being Christian is it is in the relationship you have with Jesus, not the religious building you enter every week. However, even with this being the case, any Christian denomination that teaches the Word may be the one suitable for you – irrespective of their minor differences.</p>	
<p>This brings me to a question I have for my Christian brothers and sisters out there.</p> <p>It is one that has bothered me for quite</p>	

<p>some time now.</p> <p>Why is it that we have all these “loving attempts” at reaching out to the lost, the sinful, the homeless, and the drug-addicted <i>with the wonderful message of salvation by GRACE and grace alone</i> – and we patiently extend all this Christian love toward anyone who has not yet accepted Jesus, then once we get them into the sheepfold, we spend all kinds of energy criticizing, castigating, and demanding they become just like us!</p> <p>(Angel) “Oh, my lost brother, I love you, and Jesus loves you just the way you are . . . NOW? You . . . you believe?”</p> <p>You do? Hallelujah!</p> <p>(MONSTER) “Now you’d better think like us, and dress like us, and sing like us, and live exactly like we say, cause if you don’t . . . well Jesus won’t love you and neither will I!”</p> <p>It’s like we extend all these patient efforts to get people to join us, and once they do, we spend all kinds of impatient efforts warning them that if they don’t do exactly as we think they should, they’ll be cast out!</p> <p>Werd’ da grace go? Werd’ da love go?</p> <p>Someone, please, fill me in?</p> <p>☺</p>	

<p>While writing the program at a local fast food restaurant the other day, a well dressed man in a white shirt and tie sort of looked around quickly then approached my table.</p> <p><i>"Hi," he said. " I watch your program all the time."</i></p> <p>I extend my hand and introduced myself as he cautiously took a seat across from me.</p> <p><i>"Could I ask you a question?"</i> he asked.</p> <p>I said "by all means," and he said:</p> <p><i>"Me and my entire family, my wife's family, my children and their children are all very LDS. We've been active our whole lives and, well, Mormonism is our whole life.."</i></p> <p>He looked around again, then continued.</p> <p><i>"But I know – I KNOW – that it is not right. What would you suggest I do at this stage in the game? I mean, I'm sixty-four years old."</i></p> <p>Now before I tell you how I responded, ask yourself:</p> <p>How would <u>you</u> respond to this man? And perhaps more importantly, how do you think <u>JESUS</u> would respond to him?</p>	
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(beat)

I sat back in the seat and after a silent prayer, said:

What I would suggest is for you to first personally receive all that Jesus has to offer you.

What does He mean to you personally?

Have you truly been made a new creature in Christ because of Him and His work – his blood?

Have you been born-again?

Have you submitted your whole self, your whole life, your whole will over to Him and Him alone?

He sort of looked down at his hands resting on the edge of the table.

So I added – like I am adding to you –

“When you can personally say without question that Jesus is your whole life, instead of that the Mormon church is your whole life, that is the point when you ought to start worrying about how handle your family situation. And not until.”

We sat there quietly.

“Do you get what I mean?”

<p>He nodded.</p> <p><i>“Go to Him. Confess your sins and sinful heart. Ask Him to become Lord of your existence – and mean it. Then wait on him, my friend, because He will come through for you – and your family – in ways you could never come through for yourself.”</i></p> <p>He stood, thanked me, and walked away.</p> <p>And I was reminded that this is what we are saying to every Latter-day Saint out in the world today:</p> <p>What is truly, deeply, your <i>whole</i> life – Mormonism or Jesus? Do not confuse them or use them interchangeably – they are NOT the same.</p> <p>When you can say that Jesus is truly your whole life, your God, your king, I can promise you that <i>everything</i> else will fall into place.</p> <p>And with that, let’s have a prayer.</p>	
<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>	<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>
<p>Last week we began our examination of the Role of Racism in Mormonism.</p> <p>I spent that first program laying out the racist foundations found in LDS scripture.</p> <p>The result was very interesting in terms of the response we had from the LDS viewing audience.</p>	

I couldn't have scripted it or written a set of better calls.

First we had a guy named Josh (I think) from the Provo/Orem area. He introduced himself as a "filmmaker" and tried to spin the LDS racist scriptures as not necessarily being racist – that what we as men, call "racist" does not mean that God means it as racist.

So what is racism? I mean, can't we state that if one group of people are EXCLUDED from certain things based on the color of their skin that that is racist?

According to the filmmaker Josh, no.

Joshes approach to racism within Mormonism is . . . SPIN! Games with semantics.

Then we had an LDS caller named Virginia who called with a message that said she didn't think the passages used about pre-existent "great and noble ones" was racist.

To this I agreed. But what Virginia failed to notice was this idea of pre-existent worthiness IS foundational to the LDS racist views.

This will become more than apparent tonight when we hear some statements from LDS leaders about race.

So she presented another errant "defense" against racism in Mormonism – one that ignores the facts

<p>before her (that Mormonism has been racist) and focuses on an exception.</p> <p>The next caller stepped up to the plate and took another approach to defend the Faith. He introduced confusion.</p> <p>The caller's name was Boyd, who referred to himself as an LDS researcher.</p> <p>Boyd repeated an incomprehensible mantra over and over again:</p> <p>"We just have to get to the beginning!"</p> <p>I tried to understand what the heck he meant, but what he meant only lived in his head.</p> <p>So he would just repeat:</p> <p>"We have to get to the beginning!"</p> <p>That call – full of spin and vagaries – presented us with yet another method the LDS use to defend their faith – wholesale confusion.</p> <p>They say so much meaningless stuff that people just give up and say:</p> <p>"Oh, I'm just gonna stick to what I've been taught all my life because it's all too confusing to try and explore."</p> <p>Finally, we had a call from a guy named Bob. Now, our screener wrote that Bob was a first time caller, but when I heard Bob's voice, I knew that he was not only NOT a first time caller, but that he was an LDS man who really considers himself an LDS apologist</p>	
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writes and promotes himself by making videos of himself and writing on an online blog – much of it aimed against me.

He has called the program numerous times but is so boring and so focused on nit-picking certain little variables that the simple truths never get a chance to shine.

This Bob, in my opinion and experience, is mean and highly deceptive. So mean, that he calls people who listen to me, “Santa’s broken toys” and so deceptive, that he last week he told our operator he was a first time caller when he wasn’t.

So here we were presented with yet another LDS method to defend their faith – deception.

You see, these types need fodder to stay alive in their quest for recognition. Bob “needs” to have conversations with me so as to then build an entire blog about what is said through literally pages and pages of spin and straining at gnats.

This gives them identity. A name. Recognition. A life. Validation. Importance – through spin, selective scripture selection, and making mountains out of single words.

So what did the Bob want when he called in and lied to get on the air?

He asked me a question about when Elijah Abel, the black man who was ordained with the priesthood by

<p>Joseph Smith – Bob asked me when had that priesthood taken rescinded?</p> <p>He was trying to infer that this priesthood never was rescinded which would make Mormonism more friendly to the blacks.</p> <p>Well I happened to have a quote on hand from LDS apostle Harold B. Lee, who, speaking at Brigham Young University in 1961, said Elijah Abel’s priesthood ordination, when discovered, was rescinded. He said, in fact, that it was</p> <p>“was declared null and void by the prophet (Joseph Smith) himself and so likewise by three other (LDS) presidents who succeeded the Prophet Joseph” in office.</p> <p>What did the Bob say in response?</p> <p>That the LDS apostle Harold B Lee “was mistaken.”</p> <p>The LDS apostle, who is considered a <i>prophet, seer, and revelator</i>, was mistaken!</p> <p>And now Bob, from Fruit Heights, is the authority.</p> <p>The LDS apostle who was trusted as a literal mouthpiece for God, while speaking to thousands at BYU, he was mistaken, and Bob . . . has the real teachings.</p> <p>Now, I can assure you that the folks at BYU back in 1961 trusted Apostle Lee as an apostle.</p>	
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<p>They believed him – like the people believe their (ahem) “apostles and prophets” today.</p> <p>My question is why?</p> <p>If the Apostle made mistakes like this then, what mistakes are they making today?</p> <p>This is really the whole point of our program tonight. Racism is just one vehicle of many that prove it.</p> <p>How come these ya-hoos get to call themselves prophets and apostles, say whatever they want, cause whatever hatreds they choose, and then once they’re dead, Latter-day Saints have the very convenient ability to say they were wrong all the while?</p> <p>Listen, the Word of God – the Bible – is trustworthy.</p> <p>These men – from Harold B. Lee, to Brigham Young, to Joseph Smith, to the Bob, and the Boyd, and the Virginia, and the Josh – are not. Their whole purpose is to defend and somehow try and justify a lie.</p> <p>Trust God’s Word. Trust Him. Trust nothing else.</p> <p>(Beat)</p> <p>So, the scriptural foundation was laid for racism within Mormonism by Joseph Smith himself.</p> <p>These foundations said that:</p>	
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1. skin tone was a curse placed upon the American Indians by God because of the sins of their fathers (and actually for their own sins) *and that* the skin color placed upon black people was a cursed that God put upon them because of the sins of their forefather Cain.
2. Additionally, there is the LDS idea that skin color along with the socio/economic standing of every individual born on earth, is an indicator of their pre-existence “worthiness.” If a person is born white and LDS in Utah to a wealthy family, they were the best of the best in the mythical pre-existence. If a person is born poor black in Harlem or the Congo, it was because they did something poorly with themselves before the world was!

We’ll, even though most of these views are denied by LDS *defenders* today, the ideas and the opinions live on within the hearts of most LDS members.

I wanna know why no Latter-day Saint called and agreed with the teaching honestly. This is the irritant in my heart.

Well let’s now hear what the scriptural pronouncements we mentioned last week produced in the hearts of LDS leaders and members for over 175 years – and even up until this day.

(READ QUOTES)

ON PRE-EXISTENCE

Now, I am fairly certain that Joseph Smith took this idea of “a pre-existence state” from a very popular idea from Thomas Dick’s, *Philosophy of a Future State*, a book from which even Sidney Rigdon directly quoted from in an article in the LDS Messenger and Advocate of November 1836, Joseph suggested that there were “various orders of intelligences” that came from a pre-mortal human existence.

And these are just a handful of statements from the leaders of Mormonism dating back to Brigham Young and pushing up to this present day.

Next week, we’re going to see what the setting and context was for the LDS to change their policy of no blacks holding the priesthood, with the advent of DNA and the studies of the American Indians, and then we’ll end with the present-day view of race in Mormonism today the following week.

Let’s open up the phone lines:

<p>(801) 973-8820 (801) 973-TV20</p> <p>First time callers, please. LDS if at all possible. Please have your questions or comments ready.</p>	
<p>We're going to take a few minutes to watch an announcement for our Partners program.</p> <p>We could use <i>any</i> help the Lord has put you in a position to give. Prayer, volunteerism, financial.</p> <p>If your support comes in terms of finance, please be sure to first support your personal church, and if so inclined, to consider Alatheia Ministries thereafter.</p> <p>Take a look.</p>	
<p>While the operators are clearing your calls, let me read some emails.</p> <p>EMAILS</p>	

<p>CONCLUSION</p> <p>Jesus is the way, the Truth, and the Life. No person comes to the Father by ANY other way. ANY.</p> <p>Have you been born-again? Are you a new creature in Him? Is He, without exception or qualification, your LORD and KING? The author and the FINISHER of your faith? (beat)</p> <p>If not go to Him – now. Ask Him to open your eyes, forgive your sin, and be Lord and King of your life.</p> <p>He will come. Wait and trust.</p> <p>And we'll see you next week, here on Heart of the Matter.</p>	
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<p>LIVE! From the “Mecca of Mormonism ...”</p> <p>- Salt Lake City, Utah -</p> <p>This is “Heart of the Matter” ...</p> <p>“Where Mormonism Meets Biblical Christianity Face to Face.”</p>	<p><i>Show 49 The Role of Racism in Mormonism – Part III</i> <i>December 15th 2009</i></p> <p>And I’m your host, Shawn McCraney.</p>
<p>How does the Lord work?</p> <p>Wonderfully.</p> <p>It started with a road-side conversion.</p> <p>A book.</p> <p>A website, and a lot of resistance.</p> <p>He added a television program which aired originally on broadcast tv – only.</p> <p>A sister station in Boise Idaho picked up the show.</p> <p>He added cable, dish and direct TV – expanding our audience all over the State of Utah.</p> <p>All the programs were then made available through our internet archives.</p> <p>A brother in Norway, Andrew, by his own volition and love for the LORD was led by Him to put clips of Heart all over YouTube and that has brought knowledge of the program to tens of thousands the world over.</p> <p>He added streaming video which allows even more people around the world to watch the program live by</p>	

<p>going to www.hotm.tv.</p> <p>He started it all by changing the heart of one lost soul.</p> <p>We thank and Praise Him and Him alone for leading the way in so many areas where we have been ignorant.</p>	
<p>For two years now we have held Bible studies every Sunday afternoon. Come and join us and learn the Bible from a non-religious perspective – what I mean by that is we try to teach it without any sectarian bias.</p> <p>So attend your respective churches in the morning, then join us Sunday afternoons at the University of Utah and then Sunday evenings at Utah State.</p> <p>Go to www.calvarycampus.com for more information.</p> <hr/> <p>“I was a Born-Again Mormon” is available to all for free through a downloadable PDF.</p> <p>Go to www.hotm.tv and you can have the book in your hands within minutes.</p> <p>Our objective has <i>never</i> been to sell books but to get people – primarily LDS people – to read about how the Lord changes lives through re-birth.</p> <p>We hope you will take the time to read it and/or share it with your friends and family.</p>	
<p>Again, we’re really excited about the</p>	

<p>coming year, 2010, where we are going to get right into the Bible and teach what it says – All THINGS CONSIDERED – and what the LDS claim it says.</p> <p>I don't think there will be a better set of shows for both Christians and seeking Latter-day Saints than what's coming in 2010.</p> <p>Stay tuned.</p>	
<p>How much of "Jesus" is enough to make a religion Christian?</p> <p>Years ago I gave an example to help facilitate an answer to this.</p>	<p>EXAMPLE</p> <p>Imagine that this cup of salt represents perfect 100% biblical Christianity.</p> <p>Perfect saline Christianity. The way to tell is to taste it. Maybe even test it in a lab called the Bible.</p> <p>(HOLD UP SALT)</p> <p>This is Christianity. This is what Jesus would say is Christianity.</p> <p>Got it?</p> <p>Now, if we take this cup and add a cup of water – symbolizing mans additions and subtractions to Christianity – we still have a pretty strong Christian salinity, right?</p> <p>But what if we take this solution and pour it into a bucket of water?</p> <p>The strength and taste of Christianity would indeed be lessened, right?</p>

<p>The Rastafarians believe Jesus was a successor to Moses, and then to Elijah, and that He was “a third great avatar.” Is Rastafarianism an acceptable form of Christianity?</p> <p>Hare Krishna’s believe Jesus was the Son of Krishna, and that He was the human manifestation of a Hindu deity.</p> <p>Enough salt there? Are Hare Krishna’s Christian?</p> <p>Buddhist’s believe Jesus was a highly evolved avatar, or teacher, and that the impersonal God “Brahman” actually inhabited his body. Are Buddhist’s Christian too?</p> <p>Muslims say Jesus was a great</p>	<p>And then what if we take the bucket and pour it into a swimming pool?</p> <p>Can you taste the salt or the Jesus still? Or has He been so diluted, so invaded, so overwhelmed by all that water, that he is now only a residue.</p> <p>Could we call that entire pool of water Christian?</p> <p>What if we threw this bucket into lake Michigan? Could you taste the Christianity then? Would it still be Christian?</p> <p>At what point does the name and claims of Jesus become so distorted and diluted as to no longer represent Christianity?</p> <p>Tell me.</p>
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<p>messenger of God, but not as esteemed as Muhammed. Are Muslim's Christian?</p> <p>The Baha'i's teach Jesus was one of nine divine manifestations.</p> <p>Raelians believe Jesus was a great messenger from extra-terrestrial beings.</p> <p>And New Agers believe that the man Jesus was filled with the cosmic "Christ" consciousness.</p> <p>Listen:</p> <p>If any or all of these diluted forms of Jesus make the group Christian, we ought to throw the Bible away – completely – because what it says would be a lie.</p> <p>Christianity teaches that Jesus was co-equal to God the Father, who became God-incarnate so as to save mankind from all sin through His shed blood. That He created ALL things – not some things, but all, and believing on Him we are saved from sin by His grace.</p> <p>This is biblical Christianity.</p> <p>Every other dilution is exactly that.</p> <p>Mormonism teaches that Jesus is a god, the literal firstborn spirit creation of God the Father and His wife (or wives) in a pre-existence where all men were spiritually formed, which makes Jesus a created spirit brother.</p> <p>Mormonism teaches that Jesus is the</p>	
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<p>literal Son of God sired by the Father the way all humans are sired. And that men are saved by a combination of his Shed blood and our works. And that we can become Gods too.</p> <p>Enough Jesus to be Christian? If so – here me now – IF SO – we ought to throw the Bible out because this form of Christianity does not fit with what it says – any more than the New Age or Rastafarian or Islam is Christian.</p>	
<p>Why am I saying all this?</p> <p>The push from Mormonism over the past twenty-five years has been to be accepted as Christian.</p> <p>Today this push is at a fever pitch.</p> <p>All this pushing is having an effect on many prominent Christian men and women who are buying into their claims.</p> <p>A recent example?</p> <p>A good friend of mine – GORDON - recently went on the Dave Ramsey website to find a Christian financial planner to help him with some money he wanted to invest.</p> <p>Ramsey has made a huge name among Christian Churches around the nation with his financial peace stuff.</p> <p>Christian pastors welcome him into the fold and give him access to their flocks.</p> <p>By typing in a zip code on the Dave Ramses site my friend Gordon was</p>	

referred to a website that said a Christian financial professional who worked in his area.

Calling this Christian financial planner, he soon learned the man is in fact LDS.

Gordon said, "I'm sorry. I was mislead. The website said I was being referred to a "Christian Financial Planner" to which the LDS man naturally replied, "I am Christian."

Gordon contacted the Dave Ramsey group, who has tapped into and gain the trust of Christian community around the nation.

One of his representatives investigated the circumstance and called Gordon back, saying that the LDS Financial Planner, "*met all of our criteria for a man with a good heart*" and stood by the Ramsey's Group decision to recommend Mormon financial reps . . . as Christians.

We might as well throw the Bible away.

Wanting to give Mr. Ramsey the opportunity to address this issue I personally contacted him and left two voicemail messages in his private mailbox over the past two weeks.

I explained in both messages that if I didn't hear back from him we would take it as a clear signal that he stands by their decision to continue forward recognizing Mormonism as Christian.

<p>We've heard nothing back.</p> <p>I find his indifference insulting to the integrity of the Word of God and a great misuse of the trust the Body has given him to serve Christians.</p>	
<p>And with that, let's have a prayer.</p>	
<p>Well, tonight we continue on with Part III of the Role of Racism in Mormonism.</p> <p>In part I we talked about the origins of Racism within Mormonism – their scriptures.</p> <p>In part II we talked about how those doctrines grew to flat out racist ideas and ideals within the LDS Church - especially among their leaders – for 150 years (or between 1838 up until 1978).</p> <p>Now, let me make a comment here so as to put this whole thing in a fair light.</p> <p>I understand racism. I don't like it, but I have made racist comments and told racist jokes in my life.</p> <p>I think most fallen men and women are racist by nature.</p> <p>I think Satan loves racism and bigotry and hatred and so I am not so dumb to think it does not exist in the hearts of people of every walk – even today.</p> <p>Here is the problem with Mormon racism:</p>	

They laid it all upon God! They created a doctrinal position for it and put it in God's hands.

This is a very different matter than a single individual who is LDS being racist. And this is why we cover the matter today:

LDS scriptures, prophets, and apostles – the most trusted men in the religion – were not only racist, they taught racist doctrine and belief – even practiced it AS A RELIGION – AS GOD'S ONLY TRUE RELIGION.

Now cross reference this with James 1:13 that says:

"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man."

So we have a few choices here.

Either a) racism is not evil OR,
b) God can do evil (contrary to James 1:13) OR,

c) Mormonism did the evil and its prophets and apostles actually have the audacity to put the blame on God for it.

Sadly enough, the answer is C.

In fact, listen as one of the most popular LDS writers of the 1960's – a guys named John Stewart – chose to actually throw down on God rather than allow Mormonism to appear unfair.

In his book, *The Glory of Mormonism*, written in 1963, Brother Stewart said:

"When God allows a spirit to take a negroid body, do you suppose He is unaware of the fact that he will suffer a social stigma? Therefore, if you say that this church is unjust in not allowing the Negro to bear the priesthood, you must, to be consistent, likewise say that God is even more unjust in giving him a black skin."

EYEBROW.

Oh . . . that's right, John Stewart wasn't an official spokesman for the Church.

Well, how about Joseph Fielding Smith, LDS prophet who said:

"It is NOT the authorities of the church who have placed a restriction on him regarding the holding of the priesthood (meaning the black man) . . . IT WAS THE LORD!"

Nice one there, JSF.

In any case, the bottom line was this:

If you were of a different color of skin other than white you were considered inferior in one way or another for the first 138 years of Mormonism.

Now remember, with all these racist ideas, it wasn't just about being banned from getting the priesthood, it also included being banned from the temple

(where a Mormon has to go in order to live with God after this life) and a ban from interracial marriage.

No mixing the vanilla with the chocolate in the ward Ice Cream socials because GOD was a racist – not the church! Never the church!

Well, things started changing at the hands of some of the less racist minded leaders.

At first, these changes were, frankly, quite humorous and pathetic – but they did lead to some early signs of hope.

In an article written by APOSTLE Spencer W Kimball and published by the LDS church magazine The Improvement Era in 1960, the leader suggested witnessing some rather remarkable things among the Lamanites.

In the article, Apostle Kimball described how he was witnessing first hand the progress and growth of the native Indians living on a reservation he had frequented for several decades.

Wrote Kimball:

“I saw a striking contrast in the progress of the Indian people today as against that of only fifteen years ago. Truly the scales of darkness are falling from their eyes, and they are fast becoming a white and delightful people.”

After hailing all the growth and accomplishments of these reservation

Indians, Apostle Kimball again referenced the Book of Mormon verbiage and claims, saying:

"The day of the Lamanites is nigh. For years they have been growing delightful, and they are now becoming white and delightful, as they were promised."

Then he spoke of a photograph of Indian missionaries he had seen and wrote:

"In this picture of the twenty Lamanite missionaries, fifteen of the twenty were as light as anglos; five were darker but equally delightful."

In the 1960s and seventies, there was a drive by the LDS to take Indian kids from off the reservations and place them in the homes of caucasian LDS people. They called it the *"Home Placement Program."*

In this article, Apostle Kimball referred to those who were in the program and said:

"The children in the home placement program in Utah are often lighter than their brothers and sisters in the hogans on the reservations!"

Can you believe this schnit?!

And this proclaimed Apostle goes on and on and on!

Now, this was 1960. I was born in 1961. And I cut my religious teeth on this crap.

I trusted my leaders.

I believed they were really apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ, who said junk like this!

And for the first 17 years of my existence – prior to 1978 – I believed this mythology, that this racist garbage actually came from GOD!

As a Christian I can read the Bible – passages like Roman 2:11

“For there is no respect of persons with God.”

1st Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Now listen to this verse in Colossians 3:11:

Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

Now when it says, “Barbarians,” the word as used in scripture speaks of ANYONE who was not a Greek.

The Greek word --barbarov--properly denotes anyone who speaks a foreign and/or babbling language.

And anyone who was not a Greek – no matter who they were, were included in being able to receive the Gospel in its FULLNESS!

When it says “Sythians” this was a name given to a people that was synonymous with the most savage and untamed humans on earth.

Again, the meaning here is that even such a ferocious and uncivilized people were not excluded from the gospel, but they were as welcome as any other, and were entitled to the same privileges as all others. ALL OTHERS.

When Jesus died, and the vail was ripped in two, the FULLNESS OF THE GOSPEL WAS OPEN TO ALL OTHERS.

The question that looms over Mormonism is why and how so many people allowed these men to infect them with racist ideas, claim they were from God, and then Mormonism continues to grow today?

Someone, anyone, throw me a lifeline, please. Explain how and why.

I mean, where these LDS leaders right or were they wrong? Tell me!

Was skin color an indicator of righteousness?

Could skin color change if a person's

<p>righteousness changed?</p> <p>Are all non-white races and cultures inferior because of some pre-existent failures on the part of the people?</p> <p>Please, call and tell me why.</p> <p>(BEAT)</p> <p>In 1966, Pulitzer-prize winning journalist, Wallace Turner wrote a book titled, The Mormon Establishment.</p> <p>In it, he said:</p> <p>“The most serious problem facing the LDS church today is the negro question.”</p> <p>He went on to say that as long as Mormonism practiced racism it would be a political and social cancer.</p> <p>It goes without saying that the 1960’s brought with it a culture seeking more tolerance. The Civil Rights movement was underfoot but Mormonism, boosted by a leadership that bled racist ideologies, was apathetic to the national press.</p> <p>Turner accused the Mormons of “indifference, inattention toward the Civil Rights movement and pointed out the “smug-satisfaction” that existed among the Saints because so very few Negroes lived in areas of the country where the Mormons lived.</p> <p>Right about this time, Mormonism got a new leader – David O McKay – who, according to LDS sociologist Armand</p>	
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Mauss, was different from past General Authorities in that he was “remarkably free of traditional notions about marks, curses, and the like.”

As quoted in Gottlieb and Whiley’s book, *American Saints*, McKay went so far as to even state:

“Sometime in God’s eternal plan the Negro will be given the right to hold the priesthood.”

And while many thought that McKay would be the one to let all worthy men have access to their priesthood, is wasn’t going to be with the likes of several frothing LDS racists still in the ranks of leadership, like Ezra Taft Benson, Joseph Fielding Smith, and Harold B. Lee – all of whom would become a prophet for the LDS church after McKay passed away.

I don’t think it would be fair to discuss the Role of Racism in Mormonism without mentioning the courage and valor of one unsung LDS . . . boy . . . to be exact.

His name was Steven Holbrook.

While serving his LDS mission in 1963, Holbrook was taken aside and told *“not to work with the poor and to tell the blacks that they should attend the church of their choice . . . just not the Mormon church.”*

This made Holbrook sick inside – he listened to his conscious over his desire to follow orders - and he returned to Utah and began work with the

NAACP, which was staging demonstrations in Utah then against the LDS doctrines of “non-white inferiority.”

The NAACP also argued that the Church’s policies fostered prejudice because of their contention that *“negroes deserve to be the subject of disadvantaged living conditions while living their lives here on earth.”*

Hats off to Steven Holbrook for his fearless courage to stand up to the giant, and secondly . . .

If people like Steven Holbrook didn’t challenge them, I would suggest things would remain the way they were to this very day!

I want to know where the Steve Holbrook’s are within Mormonism today?

Where are those who will stand up against these racist doctrines on skin tone that are STILL present in their beloved Book of Mormon.

Where are the Steve Holbrook’s who will stand up against Doctrine and Covenants 132 and say:

Take the fricker out! Now! Or no more tithing.

Where are the Steve Holbrook’s who courageously say, “As someone who loves Jesus I am not going to accept that damned forgery called The Book of Abraham in the Pearl of Great Price!

Where are you? How can you week in and week out listen to this stuff and do NOTHING about it?

Come on! There are thousands – even millions – of people now and in future generations who could be freed from this evil – if you would just stand up and be heard.

(Beat)

Once LDS racists Joseph Fielding Smith and Harold B Lee died, the Apostle Spencer W. Kimball, who wrote that garbage about Indians becoming white became the new LDS “prophet, seer, and revelator.”

And while Kimball was responsible for actually writing one of the most horrific books ever written in Mormon History – *the Miracle of Forgiveness*, which in my opinion made gaining forgiveness as a Mormon a miracle in and of itself – he did have the foresight to see the need for a change in doctrine regarding the blacks.

You see, when the survival of Mormonism is threatened, revelations come.

It was this way with the “revelation” on polygamy and it was this way when Kimball received his revelation that the blacks could receive the LDS priesthood in 1978.

What prefaced it?

Subtle things at first.

<p>A BYU basketball game was interrupted by protesters regarding the LDS policy against blacks.</p> <p>Then a riot erupted at the University of Wyoming when black athletes worn armbands protesting BYU presence there.</p> <p>Then Stanford University and the University of Washington boycotted all sporting events that involved BYU.</p> <p>Then the NAACP asked third world countries to deny visas to LDS missionaries until the black doctrine was repealed.</p> <p>Finally discrimination charges were against the LDS church because it allowed white boys to be patrol leaders in their scouting but they refused to allow a black boy be the same.</p> <p>All this mounted on the mind of Kimball. But the biggie was when LDS Apostle LeGrand Richards came to Kimball in 1978 with a problem. It seems that three years earlier, in 1974, the LDS church announced plans to build a temple in Brazil and now that it was almost complete it was discovered that much of the money and funds and time to build it came from men and women who, God forbid, had at least one drop of black blood in their veins.</p> <p>Apostle Richards said to Prophet Kimball:</p> <p>“If we don’t change, they can’t even use it after they’ve got it!”</p>	
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<p>The result?</p> <p>“REVELATION!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”</p> <p>And as of (I think) June of 1978, black men could receive the LDS priesthood – which meant they could enter the temple, which meant they could have eternal life.</p> <p>Wouldn’t all of this had been much less painful had Mormonism just trusted the Bible?</p> <p>(beat)</p>	
<p>Let’s open up the phone lines:</p> <p>(801) 973-8820 (801) 973-TV20</p>	
<p>And we’ll take a minute to explain something about our partners plan as well as other information.</p> <p>Stay with us.</p>	
<p>EMAILS</p>	
<p>Conclusion</p>	